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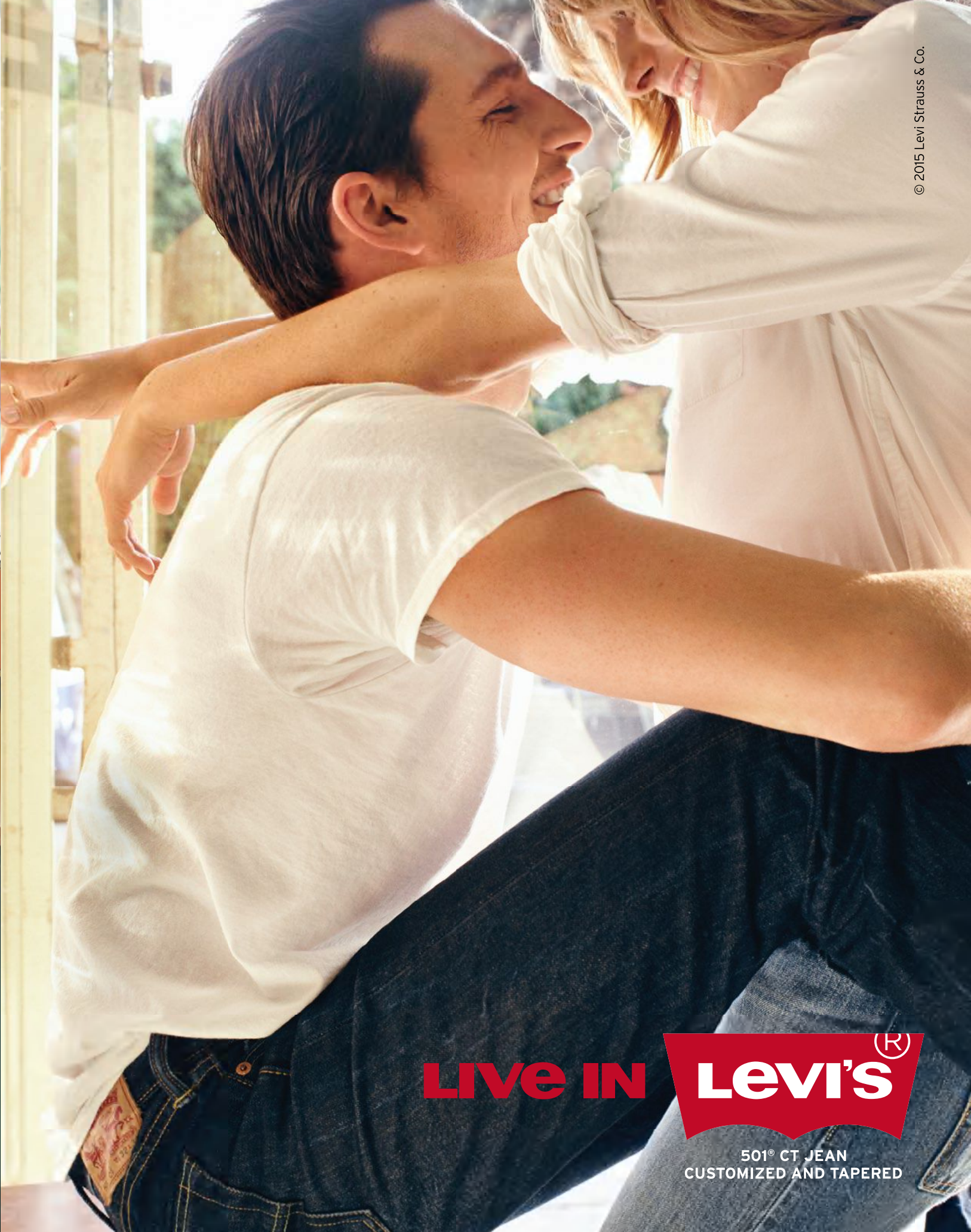
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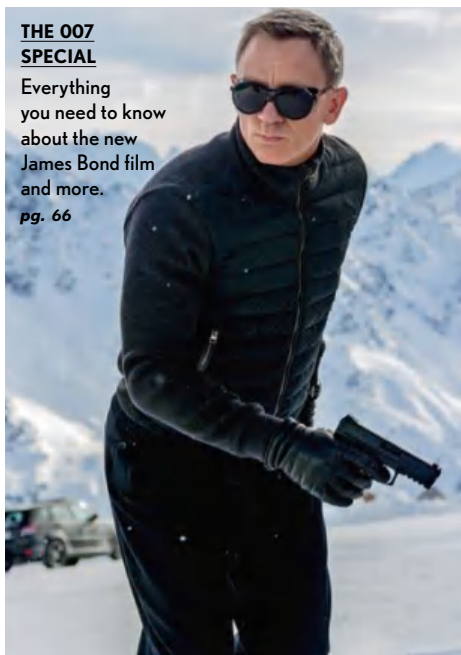
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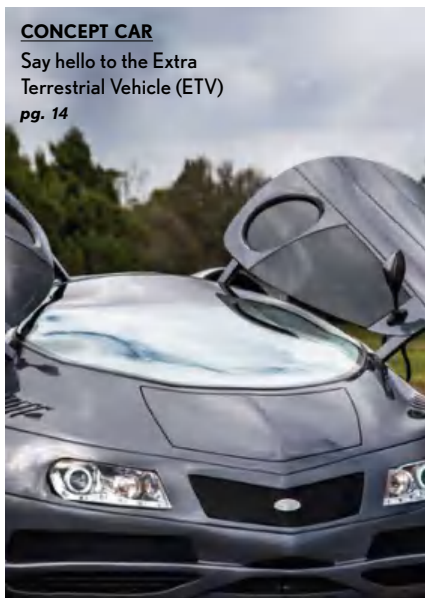
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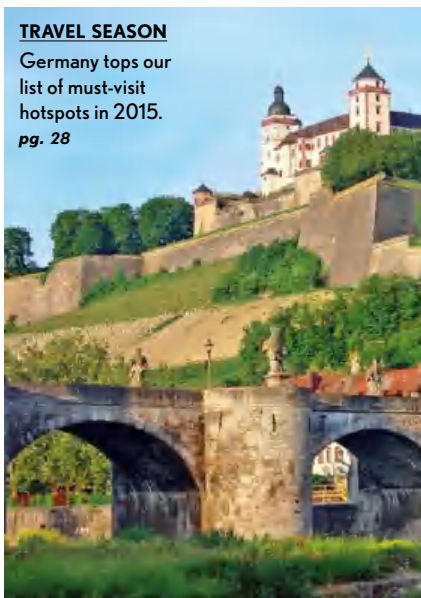
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ARENA

A MAN'S WORLD

BMW URBAN RACER: THE CONCEPT

by BILL VARETIMIDIS

WHILE FUTURISTIC CONCEPT cars are being pumped out at the same pace as renovation shows, futuristic motorcycle concepts (especially ones with German badges) struggle to score the same ratings. In order to create some much needed bike buzz, 3D modeller Jans Slapins (the Lamborghini Hot Rod guy), created the BMW Urban Racer concept—a work of art which leads the two-wheel charge and will (hopefully) be fuel-injected to life someday.

Beema bike fanboys will recognise the iconic (and bulging) boxer engine poking out, which, in this case, kicks out 1,200cc and 115 horsepower (85.75kW). Combine this with the stopping ability of the Brembo brakes and a single-sided swing arm, and you've got a motorcycle built for racing—and quick tyre changes. The main structure itself is constructed from lightweight Formula One carbon fibre, inspired by military vehicles with a hint of steampunk; heavily contrasted by the quilted leather seat and wooden fuel tank guards with a hint of gentleman's club. Many auto-bloggers have prematurely wet themselves over the thought of a BMW concept motorcycle, unaware that BMW have been making motorcycles since 1923—before they even built a vehicle. Thanks to Slapins, many are now aware of BMW's bike history and 3D printing's motorcycle future.



INSIDE

THE STRANGE MAGIC OF: SIA,
FKA TWIGS & BJÖRK
AN ALPINE FOOD STORM



CHEVROLET FNR: THE CONCEPT

by **BILL VARETIMIDIS**

IF THE GUYS AT GENERAL MOTORS HAVE their way with future design, all self-driving cars will be as easy on the eye as they are on the feet. The first example in the driverless game is the Chevrolet FNR, an autonomous electric concept designed by the GM Pan Asia Technical Automotive Centre (PATAC) in Shanghai, which cleverly utilises networking technology—all while looking like every Batmobile and Lamborghini ever made. To accomplish this they start with a huge glass capsule, add crystal laser headlights and taillights, then attach the dual swing ‘dragonfly’ doors. Ride-wise, it runs via electric motors in the magnetic hubless wheels and instead of keys, starts with eye recognition—while sensors, a roof-mounted radar, and an artificially intelligent personal assistant determine the best route to the shops. Not all involvement is lost, though, you can drive the car yourself with gesture control while resting on the 180-degree swivel front seats. Just don’t go swivel-crazy—even future laws will require drivers be alert should the auto pilot get glitchy and decide to play with oncoming traffic.

For now, it’s too pricey for Chevy to manufacture, and Google’s self-driving cars are threatening with production—although comparing both on style would be like comparing a supermodel to a camel turd.





EXTRA TERRESTRIAL VEHICLE (ETV): THE CONCEPT





RIGHT NOW, THE CLOSEST VEHICLES WE HAVE TO challenge any alien dragsters (should they visit) is the Ferrari 458, the Lamborghini Veneno, or the Pagani Zonda. But there may be another option...Michael Vetter from The Car Factory is so bummed out by modern car design, he put his carbon fibre where his mouth is and designed and built the Extra Terrestrial Vehicle (ETV) as a service to mankind. Sitting on a Chevrolet Aveo platform, it uses a supercharged 2.0-litre, four-cylinder petrol engine which sends power to the front wheels via a five-speed gearbox—201kW, to be precise, for those keeping score. So

far, so standard. It's when you get to the body that things get a little...spacey. The ETV features a five-foot-high windscreen, gullwing doors operated via a remote control and a body shape/shell that can only be described as computer mouse. Instead of a rear window or side views, monitors display the view from three on-board cameras. Very Big Brother-ish... It is actually registered road-worthy (in the U.S.), so owners don't need to turn their garage into a museum, and it can be yours to own for a bargain ₹58 lakh (excluding import duty, of course). Just check your bank balance—and the latest alien exchange rate!

ALICE UNCHAINED

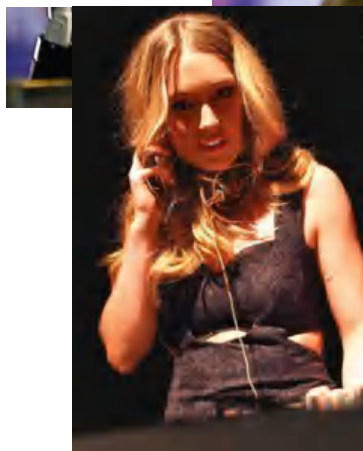
Down Under DJ Alison Wonderland is Coachella's unstoppable golden girl.

ALEX SCHOLLER, AN AUSTRALIAN DJ, WAS getting steady work playing graveyard shifts in Sydney nightclubs—often to just a handful of patrons—when a promoter called her with a proposition. He had a prime-time slot to offer, but only if she came up with a stage name to go on the poster. She had five minutes.

With that, Scholler—who kicked off her first major U.S. tour at Coachella 2015 and whom Diplo recently called one of the best DJs Down Under—stepped through the looking glass and became Alison Wonderland. “It’s just a DJ name. People always want me to give them some bullshit answer about loving Disney,” she says with a laugh.

EDM is now the most lucrative musical genre in the world. But if Wonderland is eyeing that \$400,000 headliner gig at Hakkasan, she doesn’t let on. Last year she declined to do a regular tour, opting instead to throw a series of secret warehouse parties around Australia. “In three days, I sold 10,000 tickets,” she recalls. “And then the fact that all these people actually showed up was the craziest thing to me.”

She’s not just being coy: A few years ago,



“IT’S JUST A DJ NAME. PEOPLE ALWAYS WANT ME TO GIVE THEM SOME BULLSHIT ANSWER ABOUT LOVING DISNEY.”

Wonderland walked away from a promising career as a cellist in a symphony orchestra, turning to EDM as a bedroom hobby, a way to get her “music fix” while she figured out her next step. Becoming a globetrotting electro-pop party monster wasn’t part of the plan, but her ascent from the bedroom to the big stage was quicker than most. “When I’m interested in something, I tend to hyperfocus on it,” she says.

If Wonderland’s debut album, *Run*, which dropped in April, bears any traces of her background as a classically trained musician, they’re impossible to detect with an untrained ear. But her ability to structure a song that can make a person’s face melt right off their skull is all too evident.

As for her influences, she cites OutKast, Beastie Boys, and James Murphy. “DJ-wise, I don’t really have any,” she says, “but I always go back to DJ AM and his Elton mixes. The music is so intelligent and eclectic—you always get surprised by where he takes you.”

This being the year Wonderland goes global, there will certainly be no shortage of surprises to come. —Adam Linehan



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STRANGE MAGIC

For the current queens of pop eccentricity—Sia, FKA Twigs, and Björk—the artsy-oddball routine is more than just a style. It's a strategy.

WOMEN IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY have been playing the “weird” card since well before Lady Gaga donned her meat dress (Stevie Nicks and Kate Bush come to mind), and for good reason! It forces listeners to move beyond the sex appeal of the typical pop chanteuse and actually hear the songs. Here's how three of our current favourites stack up. —Chris Wilson



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“I’M A FOUNTAIN OF BLOOD. IN THE SHAPE OF A GIRL.”



“LONELINESS IS SELF-INDULGENT, THERE’S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO WHEN YOU’RE ALONE.”

BJÖRK

Björk Gudmundsdóttir

SIGNATURE SONG

“Human Behavior,” Michel Gondry-directed video featured giant teddy bears.

ADORABLY ODD MOMENT

Too many to count, but wearing a stuffed swan to the 2011 Oscars is definitely up there.

COOL COLLABORATORS

Nurtured careers of Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq and Finnish multimedia artist Heidi Kilpeläinen.

VOCAL STYLE

Can soar from Icelandic baby talk to celestial bellow capable of grinding eardrums into dried fish.

EXTRA CREDIT

Released “Stonemilker” on Oculus Rift; was the subject of retrospective at NYC’s MoMA in June.

SIA

Sia Kate Isobelle Furler

SIGNATURE SONG

“Chandelier,” electropop anthem turned monster YouTube smash.

ADORABLY ODD MOMENT

Appeared on the cover of *Billboard* with a paper bag over her head.

COOL COLLABORATORS

Wrote and produced for Rihanna, Beyoncé, Britney, and Christina; sang on Kanye’s “Wolves”; cast Shia LaBeouf in bizarre “Elastic Heart” video.

VOCAL STYLE

Rihanna-esque pop chops with stunningly expressive, two-octave-plus diva range.

EXTRA CREDIT

Supporter of the Beagle Freedom Project; owns a three-legged mutt named Lick Lick Science.

FKA TWIGS

Tahliah Barnett

SIGNATURE SONG

“Two Weeks,” skittering, sultry, space-age slow jam.

ADORABLY ODD MOMENT

Revealed she was dubbed “Twigs” because of how loudly her joints cracked when she danced.

COOL COLLABORATORS

Recorded with R&B duo Inc and produced rapper Lucki Eck\$; backup dancer for Kylie Minogue, Ed Sheeran, and Jessie J.

VOCAL STYLE

Ethereal bedroom whisper erupts into orgasmic, alt-R&B weirdness.

EXTRA CREDIT

Directed a video for a London dance crew called “Wet Wipez”; engaged to *Twilight* dude Robert Pattinson.



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COOKING UP AN ALPINE STORM

Nestled in the heart of Morgex in Aosta Valley, Italy, Café Quinson is a Michelin-starred restaurant that is housed in a cosy 17th century building and is known for whipping up traditional dishes but with an innovative twist. The shy but passionate owner and chef, Agostino Buillas, reveals food trends, his most memorable moments and love for surprises.

By **RAMA AHUJA**



Why a chef?

It started off as a joke. My sister and brother-in-law have a hotel and this one summer the chef did not turn up. So, I worked for them and it was during my second summer there that I realised that cooking indeed is my passion. I have not studied to be a chef but have picked up the skills on the job. I did study to be a certified sommelier, given my love for wines.

A restaurant with just five tables for 16 people?

I decided to work with just five tables because I work all by myself in the kitchen. My wife and her sister do assist me in the restaurant but in the kitchen it's just me. I like to cook for fewer people so as to consistently maintain the quality as we work with high-quality ingredients.

What is the menu like?

We do not have a fixed menu. It changes quite often, depending upon the products available in the local markets. At Café Quinson, we always work with top-quality products from the local areas. During the summer months I



like to use the vegetables, flowers and herbs from my garden and during winter you will see a lot of game meat such as wild boar from Aosta and deer meat from France on the menu. There's also a special menu for vegetarians. If a client makes a special request while booking a table, we try to incorporate it in their meal. Having said that, sometimes, the menu changes on a daily basis as well! We also have a "surprise me" menu, where a client can tell us about his preferences, number of courses desired and allergies, if any, and I prepare a meal, on the spot, based on those inputs. I really enjoy the challenges of the "surprise me" menu.

Most popular dish on the menu?

That would have to be *foie gras*, hands down! It is by far the most popular request we keep getting. Ironically, it is the French people who are most keen on trying the *foie gras* as they enjoy it the way it is made at Café Quinson.

You were awarded a Michelin star...

Oh, I just couldn't believe it. We received an email and were so hesitant to open it but

ultimately we did and it was a special moment.

What has been the most memorable experience for you?

A few years ago we got a call from a pharmaceutical company that wanted to pamper 10 doctors so that they would endorse the company's products. We were asked to prepare lobsters, shrimp, caviar, white truffle, *foie gras*; all very expensive dishes, that too at a very short notice! It was quite a challenge but all the more fulfilling. The funny bit is that considering that the bill was quite high, we were asked to raise an invoice for a meal for 40 people as opposed to the 10 that had actually come, only to justify the exorbitant bill! Yet another time, we had a visitor come in who was actually a member of the European Parliament. Before he came in himself, a policeman came in and did the rounds and also asked around to check if it was safe enough for him to dine here!

What do you enjoy the most about cooking?

I enjoy all aspects of cooking, but if I were to pick one it would have to be the freedom it

gives me to experiment. I enjoy taking local traditional dishes and adding a twist to them, sometimes by pairing it with an unusual ingredient and sometimes with the help of technology. For example, our Fontina Cheese Cappuccino is quite popular and if you were to see it you would never be able to guess that it's actually made of cheese until you taste it. Sometimes, when I am walking in the woods, I notice aromatic herbs which I bring back with me to the kitchen and experiment with. More often than not, the results are fantastic.

The changing food trends over the years...

Back in the day clients would expect an assortment of 50 kinds of cheese to pick from. Now, they expect not more than four or five kinds of cheese at the most. Also, people want to eat light and healthy as far as possible. Earlier, a meal would consist of eight to 10 courses with much larger portions. Now, people prefer just four to five courses with smaller portions. In the future, I think people will enjoy eating more natural and organic foodstuffs that are made with the help of top-notch technology.

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*Based on consumer study, IMRB, 152 men, March-April 2014 *Based on clinical study conducted on healthy men volunteers in April 2014

Situations/FAH-FW/63/2015-R

MODUS accessories

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Word on the street:
Tan brogues and
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trustworthy companions
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1. Paul Smith (p.o.r.)
2. Heel & Buckle
₹8,990
3. Thomas Pink
₹1,790
4. Magnanni by
Heel & Buckle
₹29,990
5. Gucci (p.o.r.)
6. Tie Rack London
₹299
7. Brooks Brothers
₹1,990
8. Kenneth Cole
₹12,990

1. Tie bar by Thomas Pink ₹5,990
2. Tie bar by Tie Rack London ₹799
3. Bow tie by TM Lewin ₹1,599
4. Striped tie by Satya Paul ₹3,295 (set of two)
5. Collar bone by Thomas Pink ₹2,990
6. Silver tie pin by Brooks Brothers ₹5,990
7. Gold tie pin by Brooks Brothers ₹9,990

- i Globe calendar by Gifts Of Love ₹690
- ii Caran d'Ach pen by William Penn ₹3,595
- iii Paris photo holder by Gifts Of Love ₹350
- iv Notebook by Gifts Of Love ₹495

AGENDA



MAN WITH A PLAN

SMALL GERMAN TOWNS:

MINI SIZE, BIG SENSATION

Travelling to Germany is not only about seeing Berlin or Munich. There is a city which was once the headquarters of the United States during World War II, and a city which was the inspiration for Walt Disney when he drew Pinocchio's village.

by ZULFIKAR FAHD



Pinocchio is an inspiring village.



1



2



3



4

TRAVELLING TO A SMALL TOWN THAT IS not mainstream elicits a totally different reaction when you get back home. People will ask where your Instagram photos were taken because they've never seen those places before on the Internet, unlike the Berlin Wall or the Bayern Munich stadium which are already so popular. I highly recommend these small towns on your next visit to Germany, especially when it snows. Hurrah! Winter is coming!

KARLSRUHE

During World War II, the city was the headquarters of the US Army. This old town is also believed to be the inspiration behind the layout of the city of Washington, DC, as the capital of the United States has a structure of landscape that is very similar, especially in the city centre. Just like the White House, the very beautiful Karlsruhe Palace is surrounded by a mini forest and circular roads.

The most interesting thing in this city is the Christmas Market downtown. It's one of the most charming Christmas markets

in Germany, selling a variety of typical Christmas goods and food. You should try some *gluwein* (hot wine with an orange and cinnamon mixture) for ₹220 per glass and *maultasche* (leather-wrapped meat pasta). This *maultasche* has a unique history—Christians believed they shouldn't eat meat on Christmas Eve. The Germans came up with the clever idea of meat wrapped with pasta to make it "invisible" to their Lord. The delicacy is comparable to the sin: it's meaty, juicy and tasty. To try another classic German meal take the tram (which is the main transportation in Karlsruhe), to Gastaette Kleingartenverein Rheinstrandsiedlung—a restaurant that sells a variety of traditional dishes with authentic flavours that are delicious. Here, too, you can buy a pint of German beer for 50 cents (₹40). Want to party? Every night of the week, App Club plays songs from the '90s, ranging from the Backstreet Boys and Spice Girls to N'Sync.

WÜRZBURG & OCHSENFURT

It only takes 20 minutes to travel between these two neighbouring cities. Stay at either

one of them because with a train ticket for ₹400 you'll be able to move from one to the other.

In Würzburg, you must visit the Marienburg Fortress, on a hill that is now used as a museum, with hotels, restaurants, and parks. Visiting here, you can see an amazing view of Würzburg from the top. Seen from below through Würzburg Bridge, the fort also looks very handsome, especially at night when the lights are turned on.

The city has four churches with beautiful interiors that you must visit one by one—St. Kilian Cathedral, Hofkirche, Neumuenster Church and St. Mary's Chapel. Go shopping. You're a short walk or tram ride to the Market Square. Various boutiques sell goods ranging from H&M to local German brands. A hyped club is also located close by and is called Bierkeller Till Eulenspiegel. They play disco songs from the '70s. You will meet people in colourful disco costumes quite often there.

Twenty minutes from Würzburg, you can catch the train to Ochsenfurt, a very small town with colourful houses framing the way.



It's so small that you won't need a vehicle to get around the city all day! Ochsenfurt is a German version of Oxford in England. Both have the same meaning, namely, bull (ox), which sails (ford) river, and both have a bull as a symbol of the city.

You don't need more than eight hours to explore the city. Start your day with brunch at Spenkuch Ochsenfurt. With an all-wood interior, the restaurant, located right in the city centre, provides typical German dishes. Try the incredible savoury cheese and crisp pretzel. With its low price and large size, it will satisfy both your stomach and your wallet.

Check out the residential area after brunch...the colourful designs and frames are beautiful. An excellent spot for photographs! As you pass through small alleys and unique passages you'll start to feel like you're part of the movies you've seen based in Europe. Then, in the afternoon, go to Ochsenfurt Bridge to see the sunset in magenta. End the day with a visit to a traditional German bar called Purzl which is open until late at night.

1. This tram is the main mode of transportation in Karlsruhe
2. The goods sold at the Christmas Market in Karlsruhe
3. The historic Town Hall in Ochsenfurt
4. St Mary's Chapel in Würzburg
5. Rothenburg scenery from atop the castle tower
6. A vintage car
7. Typical German Bratwurst
8. A historically valuable monument in the city of Karlsruhe
9. Rows of unique cafés in Ochsenfurt

ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER

This fairytale world hub is located 50 minutes from Ochsenfurt. By train, it'll cost you ₹750 to arrive in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. The city is so inspiring that Walt Disney chose its rural background for Pinocchio's story.

While most of us would see such houses only in Disneyland, the real deal is right here. Rothenburg is derived from the word *rot* (red) and *burg* (town), because the roof of the houses there are red brick.

Uniquely, this city is located inside a castle. You must enter a gate like in the movies to get into the kingdom. There are lots of interesting buildings inside, such as Rothenburg Town Hall, St. Jacob's Church, the Medieval Crime Museum which houses 1,000 years of Germany's legal history, the Christmas Museum, and the Toys and Dolls Museum.

If you walk around to the west side of the castle, you'll be amazed by the scenic beauty of the all-green hills around, not to miss the houses with belching chimneys. A visit to the city is indeed like a ride in a time machine to a land where everything is untouched by time and just as charming. And it felt like my time machine didn't want to come back home as Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Ochsenfurt, Würzburg, and Karlsruhe left an indelible impression on me. **M**

MAKING THE SMART CHOICE

From watches to virtual reality, 2015 was certainly the year when our tech became the essential kit for all you wolves of Wall Street types. We're giving you a timely walk through smartwatches. You're welcome.

by **CHRIS STEAD**

WHAT IS A SMARTWATCH?

Smartwatches have been around for quite a few years now, growing out of the space first established by fitness trackers such as Fitbit. The concept sees what would otherwise appear like a normal, digital watch connect to the Internet—usually by syncing with your phone—to offer a vast array of features easily accessible from your wrist. In the case of the Apple Watch, for example, the iPhone 5 or 6 in your pocket does the heavy-lifting, powering and running apps. The watch itself, while providing its own little apps to tap at on the screen, is more-or-less a portal, allowing you to interact with the apps working on your phone in new ways. This includes stuff like answering texts, getting Facebook messages, playing games, talking to Siri and more.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR?

We're in the very early days of the smartwatch and what we're seeing now in terms of features and functionality will no doubt be laughed at in years to come. As a wearable, comfort is key and being conscious of the balance between screen size and bulkiness, and weight, is definitely worth it. Battery life is a struggle and one to watch out for, while you should also check online resources to make sure your favourite app is working on the OS you're keen on, especially if you are deciding between Android or iOS. For our money, however, the most important feature of the wearable in these early days is its links to fitness, which is the most obvious place to dive in and see how a wearable can change your life. Here are six that are worth considering.



	APPLE WATCH	SAMSUNG GEAR S	LG G WATCH R	FITBIT SURGE	MOTOROLA 360	ASUS ZENWATCH
COMPATIBILITY	IOS	ANDROID	ANDROID	IOS, ANDROID	ANDROID	ANDROID
SCREEN	1.5 OR 1.65-INCH, COLOUR	1.63-INCH, COLOUR	1.3-INCH, COLOUR	1.26-INCH	1.56-INCH, COLOUR	1.63-INCH COLOUR
HEART RATE MONITOR	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
BATTERY LIFE	18 HOURS	2 DAYS	2 DAYS	7 DAYS	2 DAYS	1 DAY
WATER RESISTANT	IPX7	IP67	IP67	5 ATM	IP67	IP55
GPS	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES
PRICE	FROM ₹38,000 FROM APPLE	₹21,000 FROM SAMSUNG	₹17,000 FROM LG	FROM ₹15,990 FROM AMAZON	₹15,000 FROM KOGAN	₹8,200 ON GOOGLE PLAY

ASUS recommends Windows.

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SMART STUFF FOR YOUR HEALTH

This state-of-the-art stuff can actually count the number of calories you spend from the top of your head down till the floor that you're running on. It will also record the quality of your sleep and help you to quit smoking—magical, isn't it?



Jawbone UP3



YOUR AUDIO COMPANION UNDERWATER

Finis Neptune V2

WHAT IS IT?

Convinced you could be the next Michael Phelps if you just had the right workout jam while swimming? This waterproof MP3 player is the answer. You'll be finishing laps much faster with Kanye's voice in your ears going "harder, better, faster, stronger!"

THE BEST FEATURES

There are no ear buds because it uses bone conduction audio transmission to play crystal clear music via your cheekbones, and you can save up to 4 gig of music (about 60 hours of playback). ₹10,000; finisinc.com



SMART SOCKS

Sensoria Fitness Socks

WHAT IS IT?

Yep, the humble sock has been fitted with cool sensors to monitor your performance while running. It uses a Bluetooth ankle to give you direct feedback as you run.

THE BEST FEATURES

The innovative sensors in the smart socks give more specialised data than most fitness bands in the market. The socks are antibacterial, cushioned and can be popped into the washing machine. The app works with both Android and iOS.

₹13,000 for the bundle; sensoriafitness.com



HEAD IMPACT MONITOR

Linx IAS

WHAT IS IT?

An accessory that you wear on your head to record all collisions that occur during contact sports—especially physical bumps. It sends this info directly to your phone to let you know how hard the impact was.

THE BEST FEATURES

Instead of complex data, this little guy gives simple, colour-coded feedback on a scale of 1 to 99 (a green, yellow and red warning system). Also you can monitor up to 128 people at a time. We're just wondering what kind of sport involves 128 people on a team...

linxias.com



THE ALL-IN-ONE FITNESS TRACKER

Jawbone UP3

WHAT IS IT?

This band is your personal assistant, private trainer and nutritionist in one—it records what you do, what you eat and how you sleep 24 hours a day. It's as close as you'll get to anyone caring that you have a healthy life.

THE BEST FEATURES

It's built on an advanced multi-sensor platform that packs in a newly designed tri-axis accelerometer, bioimpedance sensors, as well as skin and ambient temperature sensors. Basically it knows exactly what's going on, all the time. ₹12,000; jawbone.com





SMARTMAT

If you're signing up for a yoga class with a hot instructor, a word of caution. Yoga isn't like any other outdoor sport. You need to focus. And you need the right equipment. This yoga mat will ensure you're at the top of the class in no time. Its material can detect the location of your feet and hands when practicing yoga, so it can basically tell you the right move when you're going wrong. ₹29,000; smartmat.com



RESMED S+ SLEEP MONITOR

You might think it's a regular alarm clock to wake you up every morning. But it does so much more. This sleep sensor tracks and improves your sleep from night one by combining a bedside sleep monitor, smartphone app and web-based app to understand your sleeping patterns. It then gives you personalised suggestions to improve your quality of sleep from sounds and lighting to bedroom environment. Remember, your health isn't only measured by the food you eat, regular exercise, or how often you smoke—it's got a lot to do with your quality of sleep, too.

₹9,750; sleep.myspl.com



QUITBIT SMART LIGHTER

What's the point of working out and then lighting up a cigarette? Right? The Quitbit lighter helps track, reduce and quit smoking by counting how many cigarettes you light each day. It'll also send you a notification if you've left it somewhere or someone's stolen it from you.

₹9,650; quitbilighter.com

OSIM UDIVA: THE WONDER SOFA

Packed with a 3D power ball massage system, the Osim Udiva is the ultimate indulgence in the name of exercise. It doubles a couch and post-workout massage chair, providing comfort and relaxation at the end of a long day.

₹1,91,000; udiva.osim.com



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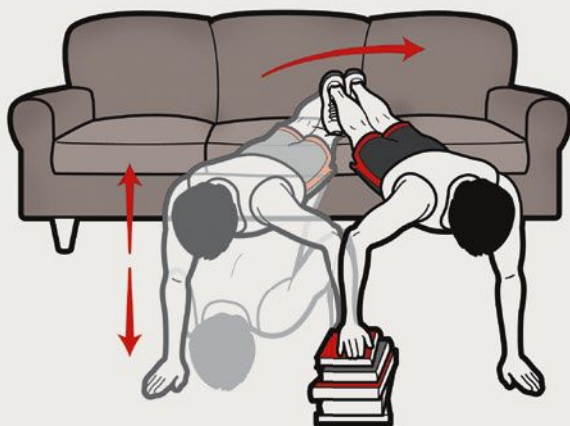


THE COUCH LOVER'S WORKOUT

Yep, we've discovered the workouts that can be done at home during the ad-breaks! You can thank us @MaximIndia on Twitter while you stretch for that bowl of chips.

BOOK-STACK BURNERS

(FOR SHOULDERS, ARMS, UPPER BACK, CHEST AND CORE)



With feet on edge of couch, get into push-up position, right hand on a foot-high stack of books, left hand on the floor. Do a push-up; then, keeping your body rigid, swing your right arm to the floor and place your left atop the stack and do another push-up. Do three sets of 32 reps, and every time you go down, go low enough to kiss the floor. Or, if you're a wuss, put your girl under you and kiss her. It's easier!

SOFA-CORNER DEADLIFTS

(FOR GLUTES AND CORE)



Stand with feet shoulder-width apart and squat in front of a corner of your grandmother's sofa, back flat and face forward. Grab under the sofa with an underhand grip, hands shoulder-width apart, and, keeping the back straight, stand up. Once hips and knees straighten, return to squat position. Do three sets of 16 reps. The key to back pain-free deadlifts is pressing up through your heels when rising.

THE COUCH POTATO DIET



FEELING CHILI

People assume chili's American, greasy and bad for you, but it's not. There's a ton of protein from both the meat and the beans, plus the beans provide healthy carbs and fibre. Score a recipe online, mama's boy.



THIRSTY WORK

Drinking water instead of beer is bullshit! But here's the secret: Watch your sodium intake. The more salt you consume, the more you'll drink, and thus the more calories you'll swallow. So replace those potato chips with tortillas and salsa.



ROCK THE GUACAMOLE

Onions and jalapeños are fine, but replace the sour cream and cheese on your nachos with guacamole. It tastes awesome and has the same texture as sour cream. Guac is a superfood, as it's packed with good fat.



CRUNCHY LOGIC

So samosas are bad, but toasted bagel chips are good? Screw that. Though some munchies have less fat and salt, they force you to overindulge. And you end up eating yourself out of any benefit. Better to gorge on fruit and some cheese.



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MAX YOUR WORKOUT

Whether you're a gym rat or a runner, these power-gearred options will have your support and performance needs covered.

by **MEHER BAJWA**

TRAINING

1. Skechers Skech AIR Infinity:

This one ticks all the boxes: Ventilating weave panels, a gel-infused memory foam for a good balance of comfort and support needed for training, and a rubber outsole that aids abrasion resistance and additional grip.

2. Puma IGNITE MESH

The new IGNITE MESH is geared towards athletes who want to maximise energy and movement during their workouts. The IGNITE foam midsole provides a supportive cushioning and high rebound. Additional heel thickness supports side to side movements.

RUNNING

1. Adidas Ultra BOOST

The latest in the BOOST line, Ultra packs an impressive 20% more "boost" for your run using thousands of energy capsules thanks to the BOOST technology. It provides support and guidance without compromising on the energy used.

2. Reebok ZJET Run Ghost

Hold on to your hats—this shoe is based on tech inspired by a jet engine! You're treated to great cushioning, superior flexibility, support, smoother transitions and a responsive run thanks to the proprietary Speed Channel moving air technology.

3. Asics KAYANO 22

The gel KAYANOs feature a mid-foot fitting system which secures the position of the shoe so that energy efficiency is maintained throughout your run—perfect for the long-distance runner.

COMBINATION

Nike ZOOM Air Structure 19

This stability shoe is ideal for every day training and running. The shoe delivers smooth transition through stability features and a triple-density foam stability system.





SKECHERS
SKECH AIR INFINITY
(₹5,999); skechers.com



ADIDAS
ULTRA BOOST
(₹15,999); adidas.in



REEBOK
ZJET RUN GHOST
(₹13,999); shop4reebok.com



NIKE
ZOOM AIR STRUCTURE 19
(₹11,975); nike.com



ASICS
KAYANO 22
(₹12,499); asics.com



PUMA
IGNITE MESH
(₹8,999); puma.com



INJURY-PROOF YOUR BODY IN 10 MINUTES

New workout plans come with promises, but your body may not be up to the challenge. We break down the most common injuries, how to prevent them, and how to treat them.

INJURY

LOWER BACK PAIN

How it happens Poor posture, along with underdeveloped hamstrings and overactive quads.

How to prevent it Core strengthening exercises and balancing the strength between your quads and hamstrings.

How to treat it Work your deep pelvic muscles by sucking in your gut and trying to breathe and speak normally. For quads and hip flexors, try kneeling quad stretches and side-lying quad stretches. Pool exercises and yoga are also good bets.

INJURY

ANTERIOR SHOULDER PAIN, A.K.A. SHOULDER IMPINGEMENT

How it happens Only training the "mirror muscles" (biceps, chest, and shoulders), as opposed to working all muscles. Bad posture is also a factor.

How to prevent it Posterior chain strength exercises for rear delts and lats, pec stretches.

How to treat it Avoid biceps and chest exercises, which exacerbate the problem. Other helpful exercises are rows, pull-downs, and pec stretches.

INJURY

PATELLAR TENDINITIS, A.K.A. KNEE PAIN

How it happens Overuse and poor mechanics. If your foot flattens out, it can create more stress on the knee.

How to prevent it Find the right kind of shoes and orthotics for support, and be sure to stretch your hips and strengthen your glutes.

How to treat it Balancing exercises while keeping the arch of the foot up, and relearning your squat and jumping techniques.

INJURY

HAMSTRING STRAIN

How it happens Poor running mechanics, poor flexibility.

How to prevent it Hydration, flexibility, better running mechanics.

How to treat it When running, make sure you use a pushing movement versus pulling movement. For exercises, glute bridges, hip extensions, and fire hydrants (leg raises) are optimal. And hydration is huge. Drinking water early and often prevents hamstring issues down the line.



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EMPORIUM

WHAT MEN WANT



MEET MELCHIOR



Even though the world of watchmaking is considered a serious gig, every year we discover a new creation that gives us a fun element to look forward to.

by **ENRIQUE ROSALES***

SWISS WATCH MANUFACTURER MB&F IS celebrating its 10th anniversary with a major throwback to every '80s kid's childhood dream. The horologic lab, with headquarters in Geneva, is presenting a series of commemorative creations all through the year under the slogan: "A creative adult is a child that has survived." The first sample of this celebration is a "toy" we'd all lust after and his name is Melchior.

Usually robots are all nicknamed with acronyms or reference numbers, like C-3PO, the powerful T-800 or the incorruptible RoboCop. But MB&F founder Maximilian Büsser goes against the tide. He chose the retro and personal name: Melchior. "In the Büsser family, during more than five centuries, since 1400, the eldest sons have always been named Melchior or Balthazar, says Max. "They would alternate them. My grandfather was called Melchior, and he hated it, so everybody called him Max, so that is how they named me. He could not resist any more the names of Melchior and Balthazar, so he put an end to a five-century

tradition, naming my father Mario, and, as it happens, 100 years later, I personally love the name Melchior."

The eccentric timepiece came about with the help of L'Epée 1839—the only manufacturer specialised in haute horlogerie in Switzerland—which endowed him with a powerful armour of steel and brass, articulated arms, a strong right-armed rocket launcher and left-armed machine gun, bright eyes that look like they're ready to throw photonic rays, an animated brain and more than 480 pieces to create the most innovative table clock in the history of haute horlogerie. The clock movement is Melchior's body and has five power barrels that provide it with a 40-day power reserve. This means you need to detach the machine gun-shaped arm that doubles as the winding and setting key fewer than 10 times per year. Is Melchior a little crazy? Yes. But if you share MB&F's sense of whimsy, this could well become the must-have accessory of the year, provided you have the deep pockets, to get yourself one. Priced at ₹23.5 lakh approximately.

CAST AWAY

These high-tech, big ticket toys will step up your tropical vacay fun downstream.

THE PADDLEBOARD: SIC RECON 11.11

Thanks to its contoured bottom and blend of stability and speed, the 31-inch-wide SIC Recon 11.11 is a ready-for-anything stand up paddleboard that rides as well on rivers as it does on rough ocean. It's ideal for amateurs and endless-summer searchers alike.

₹85,000; sicmaui.com



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**THE JET SKI:
KAWASAKI ULTRA
310LX***

The Kawasaki Ultra 310LX is a Miura bull wearing a dinner jacket: The three-person jet ski is the most powerful available, a 310-hp craft that tops out at more than 100 kmph. But it's rife with refinements, like heat-resistant seats and a first-of-its-kind 40W stereo. ₹11,70,000; kawasaki.com

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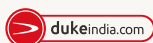
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THE BEST DOCKS IN THE BIZ

We know Bluetooth is in and docking audios are out. But there's still some old school, cool stuff to check out including these iPhone charging docks.

by **MIN KYEOM KIM***

BANG & OLUFSEN ▶ BEOPLAY A8 MK2

Taking the design of the Beosound A8, which many praised as perfection, Bang & Olufsen (B&O) added the 'AirPlay' function (which enables sending/receiving wireless data) from Apple. The A8 is a one-point stereo system with powerful acoustics. There is quite a 'bang' to the sound. You won't be satisfied with anything else once you've heard this baby. This simple-yet-sophisticated design will give a nice touch to your interiors as well. Though it's quite pricey, it's a good deal considering it's a B&O product. You want to be careful when you first set it up, because if the supporting stand isn't firm enough the weight of your iPhone falls solely on the connector.

₹84,000 / store.bang-olufsen.com/india



* MAXIM KOREA

BOWERS & WILKINS ▶ ZEPPELIN AIR LCM

Not as famous as B&O, but Bowers & Wilkins (B&W) sure is England's top premium brand that can give B&O serious competition. It's like comparing a Rolls-Royce vs. a Bentley. (For the ladies, comparing Chanel vs. Louis Vuitton.) It might look like a giant sweet potato, but this design helps kick the sound upward. There's a woofer on the back of the speaker, enabling sound to fill the space (something Beoplay doesn't have). You will feel like you're in a rock concert from any corner of the room. Its name has been inspired by Led Zeppelin as well. The dock recreates the sound of every instrument played by Led Zep and it almost feels like you're there live. This also provides the AirPlay function. The best thing about this docking audio is that this is less than half the price of the B&O Beoplay.

₹37,000/ bowers-wilkins.net

BLUETOOTH CAN BE UNSTABLE AND CAN DISCONNECT FOR NO CERTAIN REASON. IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHARGE IT ANYWAY, DOCKING AUDIO IS MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE AND EASY TO USE.



IF YOU'RE AN
iPHONE USER
WHO'S REALLY INTO
DOCKING AUDIO,
YOU WOULD
KNOW THAT A LOT
OF THEM ONLY
CONNECT UPTO
iPHONE 4.



BOSE ▶ SOUND DOCK XT

Famous for its reputation of 'awesome quality, inexpensive price,' Bose was established by psychoacoustic doctor Amar Bose. Sure, it's not as fancy as the previous two, but Bose has rich sound as well. If you're not living in a mansion with a soundproof room, you might want to go for this one considering the price. Unfortunately,

the design can be disappointing to some people. We asked some of our staff to rate this design. We showed half of them that it was a Bose product, and the other half rated without knowing it was Bose. The group that knew it was a Bose product thought it wasn't too bad, but the group that didn't know thought the design sucked. Good thing learned from this experiment is that Bose has

great brand power. On the flipside, the design does really suck. Going back to general specs, this audio dock does not provide AirPlay. However, you could connect Siri to it and control it just by talking to it. Do not have this connected while you're, you know, doing your thing in bed.

₹13,700 / boseindia.com

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KINGFISHER SUPERMODELS 3



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NOT MANY DOCKS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH iPhone+. ALL THE DOCKS WE'VE INTRODUCED HERE ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE iPhone 6+. THESE ARE THE BEST AUDIOS THAT CAN CONNECT TO iPhone 6.



PHILIPS ▶ DS3480

Philips, unlike the three mentioned above, sells a lot of things other than audio: from ovens to electric toothbrushes. Naturally, we had low expectations from this audio dock, but it surprised us with a well-balanced sound system. Out of all four, Philips ranks the lowest, but that's only because the other three are amazingly good. Philips audio by itself is just fine. And it's cheap. AirPlay function is not provided with this audio. We are guessing that AirPlay only comes with premium audios. Its oval shape reminds us of a boiled egg cut in half. Just looking at the design, Philips outruns the Bose. It's also very firm and stable, so another plus for that. ₹7,300 / philips.co.in

▲ crusoë®



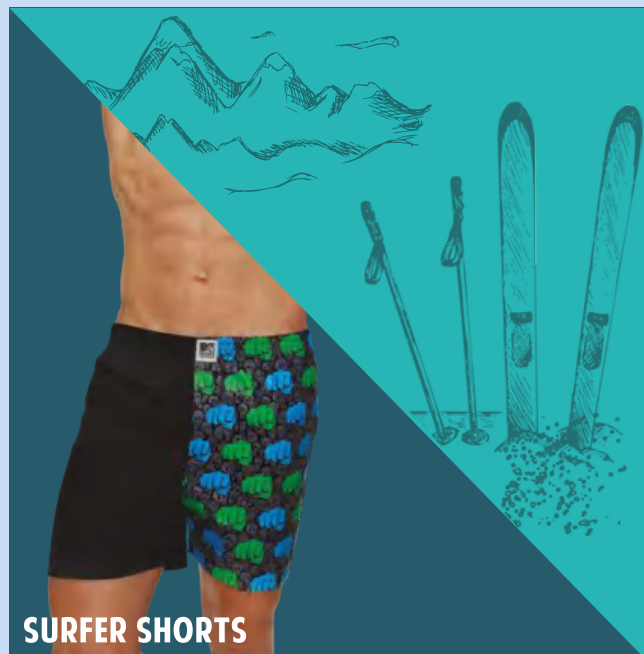
DECK BOXERS



GETAWAY



LEAP



SURFER SHORTS

Black Swan Life

ADVENTURE COMES IN MANY PRINTS. WHICH ONE SAYS "THAT'S ME"?

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FRENCH PERFECTION

THE RAVISHING **LÉA SEYDOUX** HAS
A FLING WITH 007, BUT PLEASE
DON'T CALL HER A BOND GIRL.

by **GABRIELLA PAIELLA**







Pants by H&M;
crop top by AQ/AQ







IT WAS HARDLY A TYPICAL INTRODUCTION for a would-be Hollywood superstar, but the first time most of us laid eyes on Léa Seydoux, her hair was cropped and dyed blue and she was playing a lesbian art student with a taste for Sartre and strawberry milk.

Unexpectedly, that French-language indie film, *Blue Is the Warmest Color*, became a global hit. (Maybe it had something to do with the seven-minute sex scene, which *The New York Times* deemed “longer and more literal than anything you are likely to encounter outside of pornography.”) In any case, Seydoux was soon the hottest French export since champagne. And a few more art films later, she landed the female lead in this November’s *Spectre*. Technically, she’s a “Bond girl”—a charter member of that lithe, busty cinematic sisterhood (often named with extremely heavy-handed innuendo) who turn up as eye candy in the long-running spy franchise, relegated to playing second fiddle to 007. Or they used to be.

First off, we’re not supposed to call them Bond girls anymore. As director Sam Mendes made clear when he introduced Seydoux’s and her costar Monica Bellucci’s characters to the public, these are very much Bond women.

Indeed, Seydoux’s character, Dr. Madeleine Swann, is more or less a thorough reinvention of the role. “She’s not a generic Bond girl,” Seydoux says. “She’s complex and equal. She’s more of an intellectual. It’s the first time you see a woman in front of him with that power.”

“What we especially love about Léa is that you always feel her soul coming through,” says Barbara Broccoli, who produced the movie with Michael G. Wilson.

Seydoux, 30, certainly looks the part. She radiates quintessential French-girl cool, with tousled hair; soft, pouting lips; and an arresting gaze that’s equal parts sultry and intimidating. But when she cracks a smile, she reveals a disarming gap-toothed grin—a seeming imperfection that only serves to make her more irresistible.

Seydoux’s previous performances indicate that she has the *je ne sais quoi* to steer the role into new territory. She had bit parts in Woody Allen’s *Midnight in Paris* and Quentin Tarantino’s *Inglourious Basterds*, making a memorable impression in each. She’s also no stranger to the action blockbuster, having offered a deliciously evil turn as an assassin in *Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol*. And, of course, there was *Blue Is the Warmest Color*. The film, which contained some of the most erotic cinematic moments of all time, was not without controversy. Seydoux and her costar, Adèle Exarchopoulos, criticised director Abdellatif Kechiche for his demanding style of filmmaking—which required both women to commit a gruelling 10 days of production for the sex scene alone. Although Seydoux subsequently has said that filming the infamous scene made her feel “humiliated” and “like a prostitute,” she now insists she has no regrets. “It was difficult at times,” she tells *Maxim*, “because we were in France, and it’s not really protective of actors. I don’t think something like this could happen in America.”

“I’m very proud of the film,” Seydoux adds. “I suffered, but it was also my choice to make it.”

Seydoux grew up around the entertainment business—her mother, Valérie Schlumberger, was an actress until she pivoted into philanthropy, and her grandfather,

Jérôme Seydoux, is the co-chairman of Pathé, France’s largest production and distribution company. Léa trained as a vocalist and aspired to sing classical opera until she befriended an actor who inspired her to change paths. “He was amazing,” she recalls. “He was so free.” She also credits her frequent travelling—to Senegal, where her mother worked and lived, and America, where she attended summer camp to learn English—with forcing her to adapt and helping her hone her role-play skills.

Seydoux’s globetrotting also led her to her boyfriend, a young producer she met in Venice. The most important trait she looks for in a guy? “I like a man who can respect a woman,” she shares. “When he’s real attentive, I think that is very manly. To respect a woman is divine.”

Despite her powerful on-screen presence, Seydoux insists she’s incredibly shy. Before taking on a new project, she says, “I’m always scared, because I don’t know if I’m going to be able to do it.” She certainly hides it well. Watch the Gallic beauty in any movie or look up her nude photo shoots for American Apparel and Lui, and she projects nothing but steely confidence. It’s this quality that makes her so captivating. Despite her youth, she is timeless, emanating an intoxicating air of mystery and erotic power that bring to mind the larger-than-life silver-screen sirens of Old Hollywood.

As for what’s next, Seydoux was recently offered the female lead, Bella Donna Boudreaux, opposite Channing Tatum in the X-Men spin-off, *Gambit*. The indie darling we got acquainted with via subtitled imports is officially in the tentpole big leagues. Such films require a special ability to hold the audience’s attention while sharing the screen with high-budget effects sequences and big-ticket explosions—perfect vehicles for Seydoux. We can’t take our eyes off her. ■

“I like a man who can respect a woman.”



UNDERCOVER WITH THE MOTO X STYLE

The **Moto X Style** smartphone is the perfect blend of premium performance and design; even a secret agent wouldn't think twice about trusting it with the world's most precious intel... especially in the hands of a femme fatale.

Photography: MUNEESH TARSEM; Styling: COOKIE SINGH; Hair & Makeup: SUNIL GAUTAM; Models: JESSICA, KARMA MODELS PRODUCTION, STRAHINJA, LA MODELZ MANAGEMENT; Location: LE MERIDIEN, GURGAON



With a sleek metal frame and curved back, the **Moto X Style** is contoured for comfortable handling. Which is why our agent keeps it close to her at all times. The best part? When the 3000mAh battery runs out of juice, she can charge it in 15 minutes, thanks to the turbocharger.



They cut to the chase and found photographic proof! The picture quality on the **Moto X Style** is top-notch thanks to a phenomenal 21MP camera with zero shutter lag and rapid focus. We're talking crystal-clear photos and 4K videos even in low light.





Sleek, stylish and super sexy, the **Moto X Style** will be your ultimate wingman. It'll give you everything you want from a smartphone and much more with a stunning 5.7-inch Quad HD display with 520 ppi. Blaze ahead with a super fast Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 808 processor and 3GB RAM.



moto ×
STYLE

75 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT 007

With the latest
Bond instalment,
Spectre, in theatres,
here's a collection
celebrating
everything James
Bond, including
the most badass
vehicles, futuristic
gadgets, sexiest
femmes, creepiest
villains, myth-busting
facts and more
secret spy stuff.

8 OF THE BEST BOND GADGETS

Selected with help from James Bonding podcast host Matt Gourley*



DAGGER SHOE

From Russia With Love (1963)

The shoe with the pop-out blade has since entered trope territory. It was even in *The Dark Knight* as the Joker's trusty aide.



ODDJOB'S RAZOR HAT

Goldfinger (1964)

"This is the first time we get something cartoony—but it's so fun that we let it slide," Gourley says.



TINY UNDERWATER BREATHING DEVICE

Thunderball (1965)

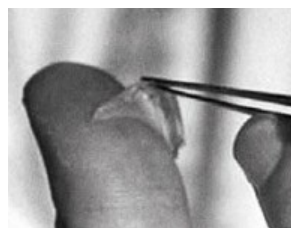
The Brit military asked for the science of this miracle tool. It was fiction.



POISON-DELIVERING STRING

You Only Live Twice (1967)

As a method of stealth assassination, it's realistic—with a nightmare-inducing ability to kill you in your sleep.



FAKE FINGERPRINT

Diamonds Are Forever (1971)

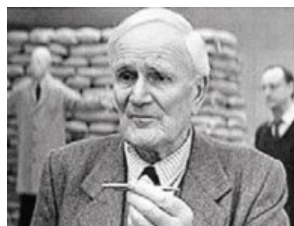
A peel-off fake fingerprint is believable to anybody who has played with Fevicol or Elmer's glue.



SKI POLE GUN

The Spy Who Loved Me (1977)

"It looks like something they could have pulled out of a Cold War spy book," Gourley says.



EXPLODING PEN

GoldenEye (1995)

The prop originally lit up when the bomb was armed, but the film's director objected: too unrealistic.



BAGPIPE FLAMETHROWER

The World Is Not Enough (1999)

We see it tested in Q's lab but never in action. What other hyperspecific crazy things are being built in there?

...AND 3 OF THE WORST



MAN-EATING SOFA

The Living Daylights (1987)

In Bond's world, taxpayer money is used to test sofas that eat people. Congress would go nuts!



POCKET SNAP TRAP

Diamonds Are Forever (1971)

The spy carries a mousetrap-like booby trap so he's ...not pickpocketed? OK.



FAKE NIPPLE

The Man With The Golden Gun (1974)

Bond uses it to impersonate the villain, Scaramanga. Plan for anything, they say.

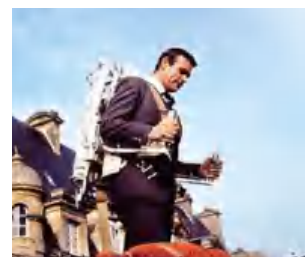
BOND SCIENCE

007 technology that's become real.



IT HAPPENED!

In the 1959 novel *Goldfinger*, the eponymous villain threatens to slice Bond in half using a circular saw. Lasers were invented a year later—so for the 1964 movie, producers replaced the saw with a totally sci-fi, not-yet-in-existence, industrial-strength beam. They're common now.



THE JETPACK

The jetpack in *Thunderball* (1965) looks campy, but it was real—and could fly for 21 seconds. "The test pilot wouldn't do it without a helmet because it was so dangerous, so they have to reshoot Connery's scenes with the helmet to match," says Simmonds. Today jetpacks aren't perfect, but they've definitely improved.

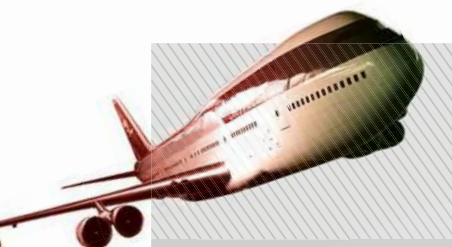


IT COULD HAPPEN!

In *Die Another Day* (2002), Bond pushes a button to make his Aston Martin disappear. Absurd...but wait! "There are many approaches to activity being researched," says Damon Lamb, a neuroscience researcher at the University of Florida.



THOUGH RIDES FROM THE LUXURY BRITISH AUTOMAKER HAVE BECOME A BOND STAPLE, BEFORE THE ASTON MARTINS, BOND WAS A CHEVY MAN. THE FIRST CAR TO APPEAR IN A 007 FILM WAS A CHEVROLET BEL AIR, SEEN IN 1962'S DR. NO.



SKYFLEET S570

SEEN IN *Casino Royale*

007 Daniel Craig

SUPER SPY SPEC Biggest passenger jet on the planet.

BOND BITE The Skyfleet S570 becomes embroiled in the *Casino Royale* plot when finance guru and terrorist (that option wasn't on our careers roster) sees destroying the plane as an easy way to cripple stock and make a killing...literally. Of course Bond intervenes, stopping Carlos the assassin from battering an oil tanker into the side of the behemoth jet. Originally the Bond team looked to the Airbus A380's huge frame for the sequence, but it wasn't ready so they dug up an old 747 and modified it. The rest was computer hocus-pocus and the 19-foot model you see here.

THE 11 BEST BOND VILLAINS

In no particular order.

1 RED GRANT (played by Robert Shaw) in *From Russia With Love* was the assassin hired by SPECTRE as a fearsome match for Connery's Bond—one of the finest films we've seen till date. Remember that final train carriage fight? **2 FRANCISCO SCARAMANGA** (played by Christopher Lee) in *The Man With The Golden Gun* was suave and scary with his intent and execution. **3 JAWS** (played by Richard Kiel) in *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *Moonraker*. The 7-foot steel-mouthed madman proved to be one of the most memorable monsters of all time. **4 ERNST STAVRO BLOFELD** (played by Telly Savalas, Anthony Dawson, Charles Gray, Donald Pleasance and Christoph Waltz) and **PLEASANCE** (his cat) have been seen in seven 007 films. He's the ultimate baddie as the founder of criminal organisation SPECTRE. **5 RAOUL SILVA** (played by Javier Bardem) in *Skyfall* was the most convincing rogue M16 agent we could have imagined. This guy gave us the creeps. **6 NICK NACK** (played by Herve Villechaize) in *The Man With The Golden Gun* was the funniest manservant/henchman/Bond antagonist we've ever seen. **7 MAX ZORIN** (played by Christopher Walker) was the superhuman created by Nazi scientists to take over the world in *A View To A Kill*. **8 DR. JULIUS NO** (played by Joseph Wiseman) in *Dr. No* was the first Bond villain and he effectively set the pace for all future diabolical beings. **9 ODDJOB** (played by Harold Sakata) in *Goldfinger*. His lethal bowler hat made him one of the most outstanding villains of the series. **10 GOLDFINGER** (played by Gert Fröbe) was so good at being bad they named the movie after him! **11 LE CHIFFRE** (played by Mads Mikkelsen) was the debonair card-playing terrorist financier in *Casino Royale*.





RENAULT 11 TXE

SEEN IN *A View To A Kill*

007 Roger Moore

SUPER SPY SPEC It's a French car so no extras, just balls of steel!

BOND BITE At least two 11s took a battering during the five-day filming of the Paris chase scene that sees Grace Jones' Mayday leap from the Eiffel Tower—don't tempt us and to think brave Roger Moore had to play a love scene with her at the height of her nose candy habit. The Renault's moment of glory comes when it leaps onto the roof of a moving bus before having its roof sliced off by a metal gate. We suppose it's one way to get a convertible!

THEY COULD'VE BEEN BOND...

Liam Neeson was reportedly offered the role of James Bond in 1995's *GoldenEye*. Apparently he turned it down because he wasn't really into action movies at the time (to think he went on to make *Star Wars, Episode I* and the famous *Taken* franchise). Also on the list of rejected actors for the role of Bond are Sean Bean, Mel Gibson, Clive Owen, Dougray Scott and *Twilight* boy Robert Pattinson. Guess he was too cold for the job?



RECORD HOLDER

Bond actor Roger Moore holds the record for most consecutive 007 films starred in: From 1973 to 1985, he appeared in *Live and Let Die*, *The Man with the Golden Gun*, *The Spy Who Loved Me*, *Moonraker*, *For Your Eyes Only*, *Octopussy*, and *A View to a Kill*.



JAGUAR XKR

SEEN IN *Die Another Day*

007 Pierce Brosnan

SUPER SPY SPEC 4.2-litre 400bhp bastard with thermal imaging, rear-mounted Gatling gun, boot-mounted mortar, 18 front-mounted heat-seeking missiles and a hydraulic battering ram.

BOND BITE This gnarly Jaguar is probably the best-armed car in the entire Bond pantheon. It's like a freaking tank, it's that tooled-up and it's so much of a hard son of a bitch that they even made it a soft top in freezing cold Iceland. We bet it doesn't even have heaters so it can pack more ammo on board. Anyway, taking the mad-Jag out proves to be one of Bond's toughest takedowns, but he eventually manages to ditch it in the lake's freezing waters.

52

HIS NUMBER: 52. ACCORDING TO AN EXHAUSTIVELY RESEARCHED LIST BY HARDCORE BOND FAN JOHN H. HILLMAN, V, AGENT 007 HAS SLEPT WITH A WOMAN FOR EVERY WEEK OF THE YEAR.

THE 10 HOTTEST BOND WOMEN

*In no particular order.

1 JINX JOHNSON played by Halle Berry in *Die Another Day* (2002).

2 OCTOPUSSY played by Maud Adams in *Octopussy* (1983)

3 FIONA LUPE played by Luciana Paluzzi in *Thunderball* (1964).

4 CAMILLE MONTES played by Olga Kurylenko in *Quantum of Solace* (2008).

5 MISS CARUSO played by Madeline Smith in *Live And Let Die* (1973).

6 MISS MARY GOODNIGHT played by Britt Ekland in *The Man With The Golden Gun* (1974).

7 VESPER LEND played by Eva Green in *Casino Royale* (2006).

8 HONEY RIDER played by Ursula Andress in *Dr. No* (1963).

9 MAJOR ANYA AMASOVA played by Barbara Bach in *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977).

10 XENIA ONATOPP played by Famke Janssen in *GoldenEye* (1995).



BOND INSPIRATION

Creator and author Ian Fleming based his character on several different spies throughout world history, also including his own experiences as a Naval Intelligence Officer during World War II. But some Bond historians believe



Fleming's was heavily inspired by the 16th century English polymath John Dee, who would sign his letters to Elizabeth I with a '007' glyph—a.k.a. they were for her eyes only.

TRY THIS TODAY: IF YOU TYPE "JAMES BOND" TRANSLATE IT TO STANDARD CHINESE, IT

OSPREY HOVERCRAFT

SEEN IN *Die Another Day*

007 Pierce Brosnan

SUPER SPY SPEC Missile launchers, machine-guns and landmine-evading float technology.

BOND BITE This killer opening sequence sees Bond chasing Colonel Moon over a million-plus land mines. While Moon's craft floats magically over the deadly devices Bond has to rattle off his missiles and machine guns to clear a path through before leaping aboard his foe's floating hair dryer.

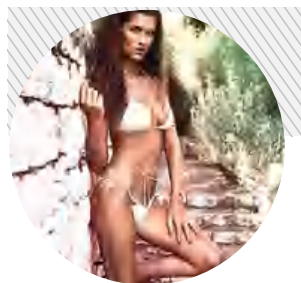




INTO GOOGLE TRANSLATE AND
WILL SHOW UP AS \"007\".

IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED!

Remember that opening scene in *Goldfinger* when Connery's Bond is shown scuba diving into the compound? He gets there, removes his wetsuit and reveals a perfectly dry and ironed tux. Then he walks in and blows up the place. Now, what if we were to tell you that scene was actually based on real events? Crazy, right? Rumour has it that real-life MI6 agent Peter Tazelaar had a similar albeit more difficult assignment—to rescue two agents who were in a Nazi-controlled casino.



THE FIRST TRANSSEXUAL BOND GIRL

Brit model Caroline Cossey was actually born Barry Kenneth Cossey and has become most popular for being the first transsexual person to pose for *Playboy*. She then fought for her right to be legally considered a woman and won. Cossey was cast as an extra in 1981's *For Your Eyes Only*. *News of the World* leaked to the world that she was transsexual. This brought her modelling and acting career to a halt until she decided to fight the assault. In 1982, Cossey retaliated with her first autobiography *I Am a Woman*. More power to you!



M418

HIS GUN CHOICE

Bondlore states that the Beretta 418 pistol was James Bond's gun of choice until a fan wrote to Ian Fleming, the author of the James Bond series, saying it was a lady's gun. The Beretta M418 is a 6.35 mm Italian 'pocket pistol,' which was first introduced between 1919 and 1922. It's so small you can fit it in the palm of your hand. However, due to the size, it's really underpowered for real combat. Fleming stuck with the gun for some time until *Dr. No* was to be released and he received that letter suggesting the Beretta be replaced with the Walther PPK. Fleming liked this suggestion and incorporated it in the books through a character called Major Boothroyd, who was 'the greatest small-arms expert in the world.'



HE SMELLS LIKE APPLE AND LAVENDER

You can now smell like Bond, even if you can't fight baddies or bed women like him. The official James Bond 007 Signature cologne is available at Harrods for just under ₹3,500. It contains notes of apple, lavender, rose thorn, geranium, and other scents. Sweet stuff!



GLASTRON CV-23HT

SEEN IN *Moonraker*

007 Roger Moore

SUPER SPY SPEC Bulletproof shields, ejecting mines, rear torpedo and concealed escape hang-glider.

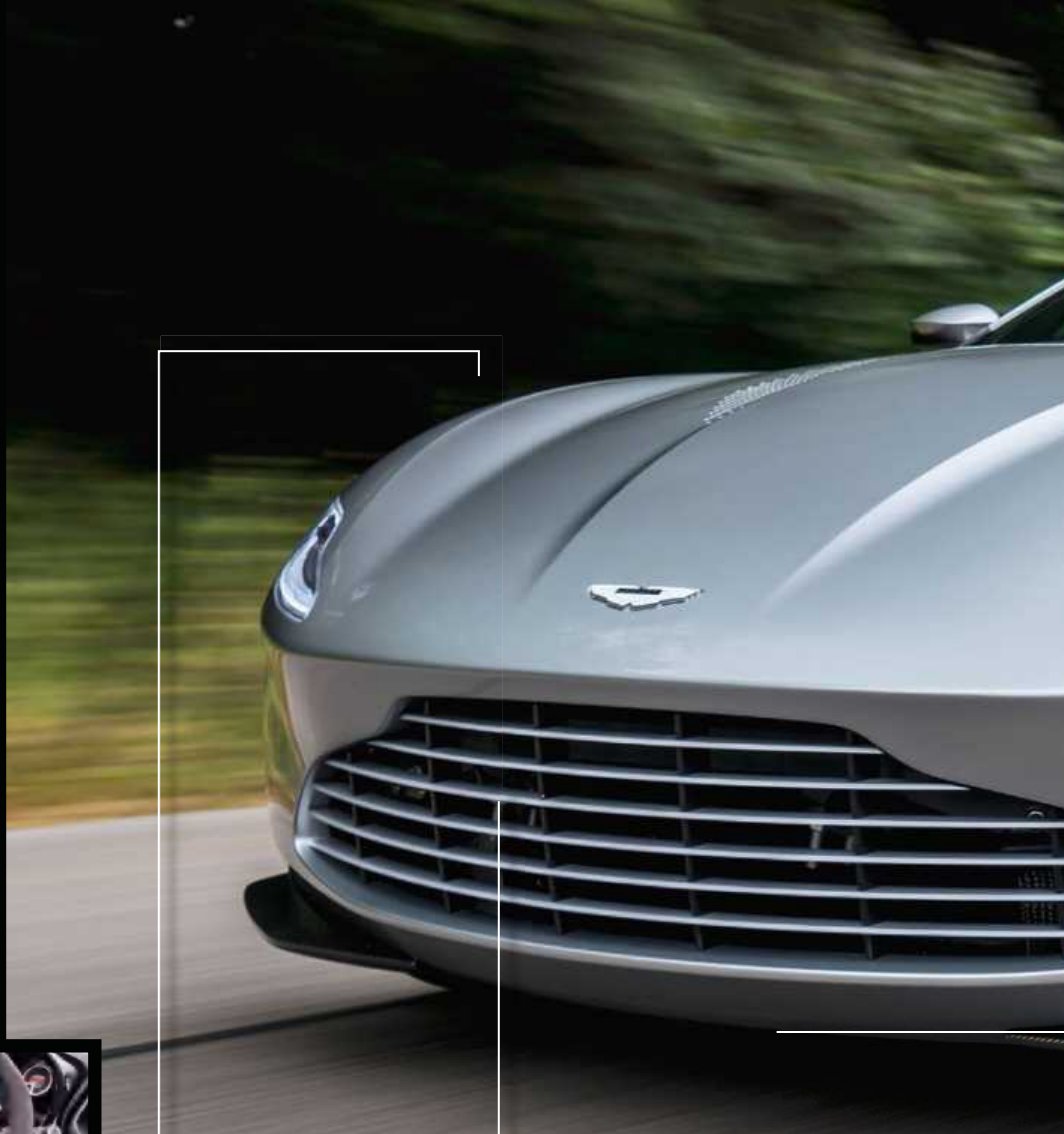
BOND BITE As *Moonraker* takes Bond to space, they wanted to make sure that all of 007's earth-bound kit looked just as sexy—so take a bow, Glastron and their heavily modified CV-23HT. This brute of a boat stars in the sequence that sees Bond chased by metal-mouthed giant Jaws and his cronies down the Tiparape river in Brazil. The chase winds up at the world-famous 269-foot Iguazu Falls where Bond drives over the edge before nimbly escaping in his craftily secreted hang-glider.

TOPPING THE MUSIC CHARTS

The theme from 1985's *A View to a Kill* is the only 007 theme to reach the top spot on Billboard's Hot 100 list. That puts it ahead of other Bond favourites, including "Live and Let Die" by Paul McCartney and The Wings, "You Only Live Twice" by Nancy Sinatra, and "Diamonds Are Forever" by Shirley Bassey.

BOND'S NEWEST RIDE: THE ASTON MARTIN DB10

Bond drove many cars, but the Aston Martin DB5 in 1964's *Goldfinger* set a standard—becoming a full-fledged weapon, complete with machine guns, ejector seats, and other far-from-standard equipment. So in creating an action-ready ride for *Spectre*, the company took cues from that Connery-era classic. “We don’t do retro design, so it can’t be a parody of the original,” Marek Reichman, Aston Martin’s chief creative officer, tells the team from *MAXIM U.S.* “It has to be modern and unique but also from the same bloodline.” He breaks down Bond’s fancy new toy, the DB10.



CLAMSHELL BONNET

“This is our first full clamshell bonnet: It removes shut lines.”

GRILLE

“The DB5 had a front grille to die for. The DB10 wears a modern interpretation of that. It doesn’t sit on the upper surface in any way, making it feel like a shark’s face.”

THE GAME: GOLDENEYE 007

The first-person shooter video game was developed by Rare and based on 1995's *GoldenEye*. It was exclusively released for the Nintendo 64 video game console. The player is given the role of agent James Bond, but also includes a split-screen multiplayer mode in which two-four players can compete in different types of deathmatch games. Up for a round or two?



ASTON MARTIN DB5

SEEN IN *Goldfinger*

007 Sean Connery

SUPER SPY SPEC Front-wing 7.6mm machine guns, dash-mounted tracking system, bulletproof rear shield, oil-slick dispenser, tyre scythes, ejector seat, bulletproof windows and revolving number plates. This baby is loaded.

BOND BITE Captured by Goldfinger’s goons, Bond is held at gunpoint and forced to drive the DB5. He makes his escape by dispatching his pistol-toting passenger using the ejector seat and then dispenses with the rest of the henchmen with a few death salvos from the car’s Browning machine guns.



NOSE

"Also inspired by a shark face, this is the lowest Aston Martin nose ever."

HEADLIGHTS

"We're looking to interpret headlights in different ways. DB10 uses light-curtain technology on the rear lamps, instead of conventional bulbs."

HOOD

"We used heat-mapped perforations, rather than traditional grilles, as a means of heat dispersion. It really adds to the modern face of the car."



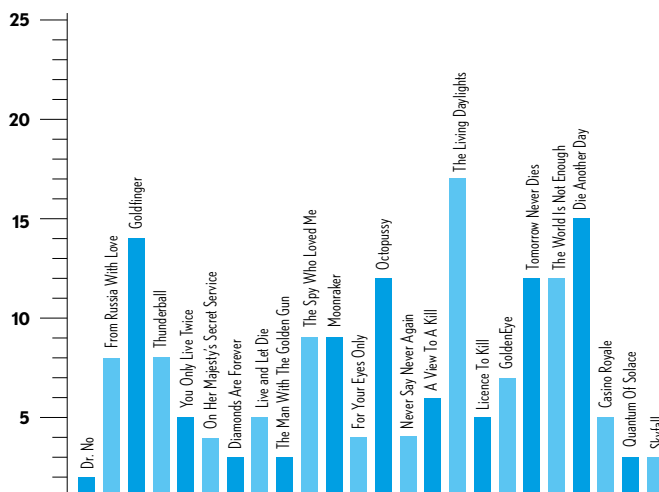
CITROËN 2CV

SEEN IN *For Your Eyes Only*

007 Roger Moore

SUPER SPY SPEC Nothing—the 2CV is lucky to come with seats.

BOND BITE The original design specification stated that it 'Be wide enough to carry a pig' (obviously for lovemaking) and that's about it. The movie also featured the Lotus Esprit Turbo but it goes up in flames, leaving Bond with no option for escape aside from the 2CV.



THE NUMBER OF Q TOOLS PER FILM

A tally of everything.

Why such an unsteady arsenal? Meg Simmonds' (author of *Bond By Design: The Art Of The James Bond Films*) theory: When one movie's gadgets are too absurd, the next one overcorrects. Then the drift towards silliness begins anew.

Data from Eon Productions; omits the non-Eon film *Never Say Never Again* (1983). Objects installed in a vehicle were counted separately. By Seth Porges for MAXIM U.S.



HONDA ATC

SEEN IN *Diamonds Are Forever*

007 Sean Connery

SUPER SPY SPEC The world's first all-terrain bike that could negotiate a 35-degree gradient... it's good at steep!

BOND BITE Deciding to check out reclusive billionaire Willard White's secret desert test facility, Bond gets rumbled but hotfoots it on a NASA-inspired moon buggy (it looked a bit like an intensive care death bed with a satellite dish on top and sounded like a Prius). Three of the cool Hondas give chase and pull off all kinds of cool stunts and jumps until Bond uses his space bed to stow them in. This scene runs straight into the Vegas Mach 1 sequence and at the time of making the film two combined made for one of the longest movie chase scenes ever.

THE BOOKS **VS** THE FILMS

● No. of books by Ian Fleming—14.
No. of books after Ian Fleming—36

● Ian Fleming detailed plenty of 007's eating habits. His favourite foods off duty include grilled sole, oeufs en cocotte (eggs and crème fraîche) and cold roast beef with potato salad.

● Bond's preferred tippie in the first book, *Casino Royale*, was the Vesper Martini.

● S.P.E.C.T.R.E. was first introduced in *Thunderball* (1961).

● In *Diamonds Are Forever* (1956), Bond must deal with the Spang Brothers as his enemies.

● No. of films—24 by Eon Productions. Two by non-Eon productions.

● It's rare to see James Bond eating in the films. You'll likely catch him with his pants down more often.

● While they were filming *Dr. No*, Smirnoff came on board as a sponsor and didn't want the mention of gin anywhere. This effectively changed the course of pop culture as we know it today.

● *S.P.E.C.T.R.E.* was introduced on-screen in earlier stories like *Dr. No* and *From Russia With Love*.

● In *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971) Bond deals with Ernst Stavro Blofeld as the villain.



THE MAN WITH FEW TOYS

George Lazenby, on being an empty-handed Bond actor.



Your film, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, barely has any gadgets. Were you bummed?

It was more realistic that way. Once those crazy gadgets come in, the story goes back into fantasy—which it is, but it becomes just a laugh. They were all done in humour.

You weren't an actor before the movie, and suddenly you're cast as James

Bond. That must have been nuts.

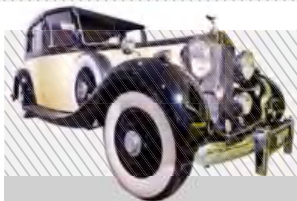
I remember going to see *Dr. No*, and I had, like, an 80 percent chance with a girl I was going with—and then about a 20 percent chance coming out, because she was so in love with this guy on the screen. I would be that guy just a few years later. They filmed hundreds of actors and looked at thousands. You can imagine how I felt when I got the role. I thought I was somebody. I just didn't know who that somebody was.

I heard you did all your own stunts.

I did, except the skiing, which the insurance company cancelled because they read the script. I did the fight scenes, jumping out of helicopters, cables up in the air. I didn't know actors didn't do their own stunts. I asked, "Did the other fellow do this?"—about Connery—and I was told he didn't.

Why do you think we're still talking about James Bond today?

The character is fearless. You never saw him afraid, which is a great way to be. There was nothing this guy couldn't do or make work. Falling into that character made you feel good. Of course, Bond is bigger than you—and I've had to live with that my whole life.



ROLLS ROYCE PHANTOM III

SEEN IN *Goldfinger*

007 Sean Connery

SUPER SPY SPEC A classic motor with a stonking great V12 engine, but it'd need to be as this Roller is crafted out of solid gold!

TOOLS THE PROS USED...

Eyeglasses with hidden cyanide pills. (Circa 1975-1977, CIA.) If captured, a spy could casually chew the eyeglass arm and avoid torture.

Rectal Tool Kit. (Circa 1960s, CIA.) Filled with escape tools, then buried deep.

Tobacco Pipe Pistol (Circa 1939-1945, British Special Forces.) Shoot your mouth off.

CONFESSIONS OF A REAL... LIFE SPY...

Lindsay Moran, a CIA operative from 1998 until 2003, never got a jetpack.



"I went into the CIA with this idea that there would be a full cadre of Qs supplying us with sophisticated gadgetry. The reality is that the tools of the trade are pretty rudimentary. The coolest gadgets I had were things like paper that dissolves in water—which is probably something you could get at Spencer's. And anytime I travelled, I had a portfolio or luggage with secret compartments to conceal documents. When you're a female operative meeting in a parked car or a hotel, the cover story is usually that you're having an affair. It's harder to back that up if you have a slew of notes about how a rebel group is infiltrating a nearby town. I loved that disappearing paper. That said, we do have real-life Qs in the Directorate of Science & Technology. They're the nicest people in the agency, and the ones with the most career satisfaction. And there are some gadgets that I'm not at liberty to talk about."



FORD THUNDERBIRD

SEEN IN *Die Another Day*

007 Pierce Brosnan

SUPER SPY SPEC 3.9-litre V8 standard spec.

BOND BITE 007 and Ford go back a long way with Felix Leiter igniting auto love by driving a white 1964 Thunderbird in *Goldfinger*. Then Halle Berry rocked up to the ice palace behind the wheel of a coral coloured Thunderbird in *Die Another Day*. Ford also owned Aston Martin, Jaguar, Land Rover and Volvo, so the movie was pretty much their parking lot.

PIERCE BROSNAN'S ALL-IMPORTANT TUX!

The fifth Bond, Pierce Brosnan, was long pursued by the Eon producers for the role but, as we've come to find, the character is bigger than any single actor's career. When he signed his contract for *GoldenEye*, Brosnan was informed that, though he was free to pursue other additional roles in between Bond movies, the actor could not legally appear in any other movie wearing a classic tuxedo.

ASK AN EXPERT

WHAT MAKES A PERFECT SPY GADGET?

"There have been cases where a new Bond movie comes out, and a CIA director walks into the Office of Technical Services and asks: 'Can we make that?' Sometimes the answer is, 'Yes, and we've had this for 10 years.' The best spy gadgets are simple, difficult to detect, and user-friendly, because lots of spies don't have technical backgrounds." – Vince Houghton, historian and curator at the International Spy Museum.

10 FACTS ABOUT SPECTRE

1 THE DIRECTOR: Sam Mendes, second Bond film. First was *Skyfall* which became the first Bond film to cross the one-billion dollar threshold at the box office.

2 THE CAST: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux, Monica Bellucci, Dave Bautista, Ralph Fiennes, Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris, Jesper Christensen, Stephanie Sigman, Andrew Scott and Rory Kinnear.

3 THE PLOT: A cryptic message from the past sends Bond on a rogue mission to Mexico City and eventually Rome, where he meets Lucia Sciarra, the beautiful and forbidden widow of an infamous criminal. Bond infiltrates a secret meeting and uncovers the existence of the sinister organisation known as SPECTRE. Max Denbigh, the new head of the Centre for National Security, questions Bond's actions and challenges the relevance of MI6, led by M. Bond covertly enlists Moneypenny and Q to help him seek out Madeleine Swann, the daughter of his old nemesis, Mr White, who may hold the clue to untangling the web.

4 S.P.E.C.T.R.E. stands for Special Executive For Counter-Intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion. It is run by supervillain Ernst Stavro Blofeld.



5 FILMED IN: Mexico, Italy, Austria, Morocco and at Pinewood Studios in the UK.

6 THE NEW JAWS: Hinx, the *SPECTRE* henchman played by Dave Bautista is giving us real baddie vibes. We're looking forward to a Jaws-esque confrontation.

7 THE OPENING SEQUENCE IN MEXICO: The pre-credits sequence kicks off *Spectre*'s story, with Bond in a collapsing building, officially the largest explosion ever filmed, a pulse-quickenning foot chase through the Day Of The Dead parade and a fight inside a helicopter.

8 LOOK OUT FOR: A car chase through Rome—the meeting place of Bond and Sciarra. It's a cat and mouse game through the night-time streets of Rome between two of the fastest cars in the world.

9 ALL EYES ON AUSTRIA: Specifically Obertilliach, where Swann has her clinic and Bond shows up to retrieve some valuable information.

10 SONG: "Writing On The Wall" by Sam Smith. Smith has gone on record to call this the saddest song he's ever written and that he consciously avoided trying to create a 'hit' song.



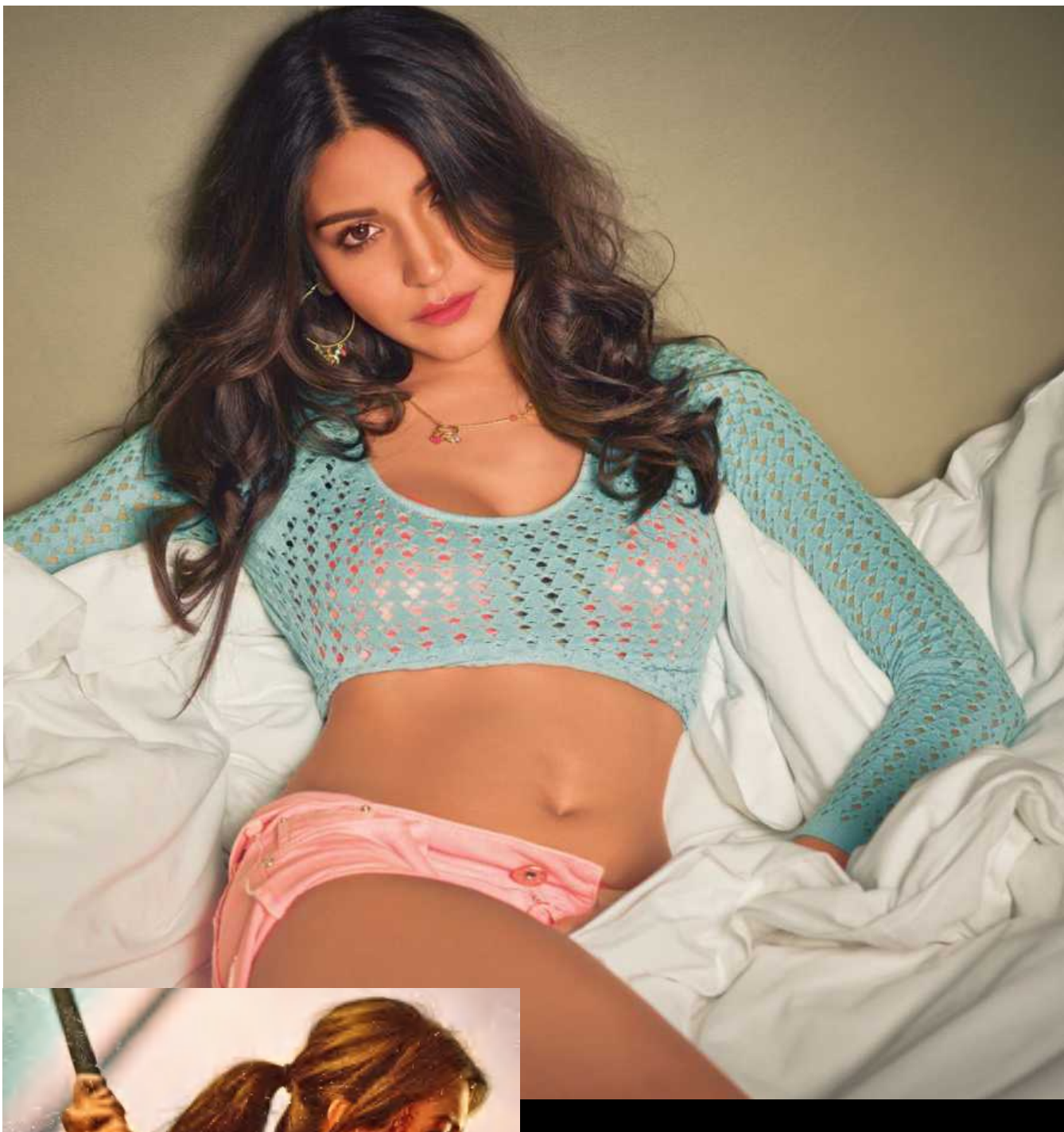
IN HOT PURSUIT

IT'S A THRILLING TIME FOR WOMEN IN INDIAN CINEMA. FILMMAKERS HAVE MATURED FROM CASTING DAMSELS IN DISTRESS TO MAKING THEIR LEADING LADIES CERTIFIED ACTION STARS. HERE'S A LIST OF OUR FAVOURITES WHO DOUBLE AS HOT LETHAL WEAPONS (FOR YOUR EYES ONLY).



▲ **PRIYANKA CHOPRA
IN *QUANTICO* AND *DON***

Undoubtedly the reigning queen of action in Hindi cinema, Priyanka has now taken us overseas with her headlining action show *Quantico* on ABC. From what we've seen of the show till now, we're thrilled at how adept this lady is at honing her skills in the action department—but that comes with the territory when you're playing an FBI trainee/agent, right? We're also looking forward to her cop avatar in *Gangaaajal 2*. Priyanka has also been seen kicking ass in: *Don*, *Don 2*, *Mary Kom*, and *Drona*.

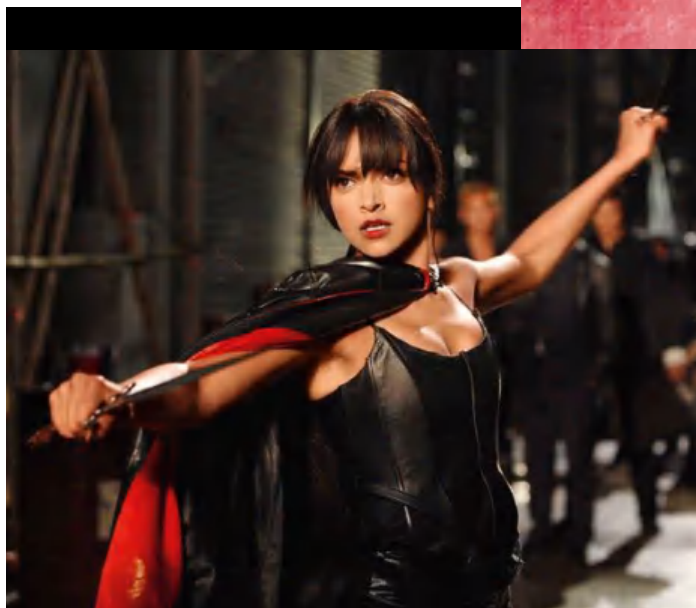


▲ **ANUSHKA SHARMA
IN NH10**

Anushka made everyone sit up and take notice when she decided to produce the *NH10* story herself. And what a story it was. *NH10* gave us the new generation Angry Young Woman that we'd been waiting for. Anushka singlehandedly takes down a pack of village goons who are out for blood. We still get the chills when we hear the sound of metal scraping on asphalt....

► **DEEPIKA PADUKONE**
IN CHANDNI CHOWK TO CHINA

Being paired opposite India's action star, Akshay Kumar, and still managing to shine in an action sequence is not easy. But Padukone excelled in her double role as Sakhi and Suzy, feline add-ons included. While we haven't really seen her do many action-backed roles since, we're really looking forward to her next. If you've watched the trailers for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic, *Bajirao Mastani*, you know Deepika is going to be amazing as the sword-wielding Mastani.



▲ **KANGANA RANAUT**
IN REVOLVER RANI

No one does gangster swag quite like Kangana. The ease of it almost makes you feel like she was born toting revolvers (as the title suggests) and putting holes in people. There was something very attractive about her bi-polar goon character in *Revolver Rani*, feel free to call us crazy.

PS: We love that Alka Singh aka Revolver Rani always insists on being "on top".





◀ **AMY JACKSON**
IN SINGH IS BLING

Or should we be cheesy enough to call her Action Jackson? This pretty young thing can pack a punch! In our minds, there's no doubt she stole the show in the otherwise iffy *Singh Is Bling* with her MMA-style fighting skills. And she performed most of the stunts herself. You know it's a pretty sweet deal when you've got a gorgeous girl who's saving your ass from a bunch of six-packed fiends out to get you.



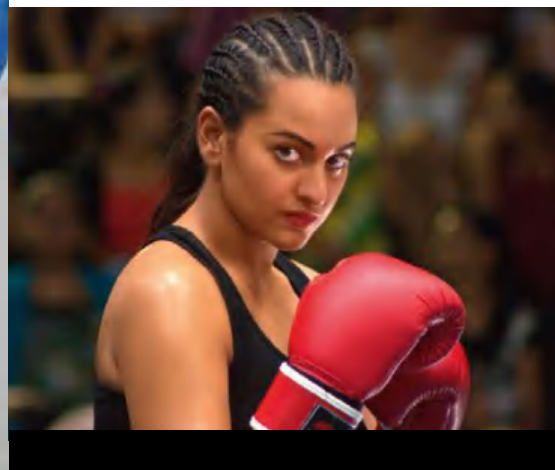
◀ **AISHWARYA RAI**
IN THE LAST LEGION

While our minds might travel to that infamous lake scene from *The Last Legion*, fact is Aishwarya kicked some serious butt in the film as the Kalarippayattu-practising Keralan warrior, Mira. Respect. Making her comeback with *Jazbaa* this year, Aishwarya proved she's still got the looks to kill and the skills to match. PS: *Jazbaa*'s director, Sanjay Gupta, got the *Fast & Furious* series' action director for the film.



▲ **NEHA DHUPIA**
IN PHAS GAYE RE OBAMA

Phas Gaye Re Obama's Munni Madam, a dreaded dacoit and self-confessed man-hater, has a fan club of her own, no doubt. Neha thrilled us on-screen with her chilly stare and *daaku* attire while simultaneously delivering with her comic timing. This is one Munni we wouldn't want to be caught messing with.



◀ **SONAKSHI SINHA**
IN *HOLIDAY*

Bodacious Sonakshi has turned over a brand-new leaf with a slew of action-oriented films, starting with the Akshay Kumar-starrer *Holiday* where she played a college boxing champ. Pretty neat stuff. But what we're really looking forward to is this powerhouse performer in *Akira* (she's been training extra hours and practising martial arts for the hardcore action sequences) and in *Force 2* with John Abraham.

▶ **KATRINA KAIF**
IN *PHANTOM*

First there was *Ek Tha Tiger* with Salman Khan. Then came *Phantom* with Saif Ali Khan. Hot 100 resident Katrina Kaif is constantly pushing the boundaries of what's expected of her. Granted, some of the action sequences might come across as unrealistic but at the end of the day Kaif has put in a ton of effort and it shows—from weight training to gun shooting classes, she's leaving no stone unturned. We're pretty happy about that. You?





BACK FROM THE DEAD

THIS IS THE STORY OF BLADE-RUNNER MAJ. D.P. SINGH WHO NOT ONLY SURVIVED THE LETHAL BLAST OF A MORTAR SHELL WHILE FIGHTING PAKISTANIS ON INDIA'S BORDER BUT HAS NOW TAKEN ON A PERSONAL FIGHT AGAINST DISABILITY BY RUNNING MARATHONS.

By VIVEK MUKHERJI

ONLY A DISCERNING EYE COULD NOTICE A

slight limp in the proud gait of a military man as he walked into a café in one of the many malls that have come to define Gurgaon's borrowed identity.

Unlike the artificiality of the shiny structures of glass and concrete overlooking the potholed and dug-up roads and erratic drivers with little road sense whipping up a veritable chaos behind expensive sets of wheels that have become one of the most conspicuous symbols of the neo-rich urban elite and the choking haze of progress, Major D.P. Singh cuts a contrasting figure. He has the demeanour of a person who understands the ephemerality of things that are usually taken for granted. Or, it could be wisdom that has been distilled in the heat of the battles that life has thrown at Singh that lends a gentle edge to his voice in the rambunctious confines of the coffee shop.

For a man who, according to the Medical Blue Book, is certified 140 percent disabled, who has more than 50 pieces of mortar shrapnel embedded in his body and is amputated through the knee, to find succour in running marathons is a story of an iron will forged from tempered steel. Even the spirit of Pheidippides must be taking a bow somewhere in the ruins of Marathon.

The months of May, June and July in 1999 were a summer of discontent in the Indian subcontinent. In the winter of that year, Pakistan sneaked in insurgents backed by its soldiers from the elite Special Services Group and Northern Light Infantry to occupy the craggy ridges dominating Kargil and Drass on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC), overlooking the Leh-Srinagar highway. It had been a long-standing practice on the part of the Indian Army to vacate the posts on the mountain tops on our side of the LOC before the onset of the winter snow.

The ill-conceived plan hatched in the top echelons of the Pakistani Army led by its buccaneering Chairman of Joint Chiefs, General Pervez Musharraf, had the intention of cutting off the vitally important National Highway 1 connecting Leh in Ladakh and Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley, thereby forcing India's hand in ceding territory in the Siachen Glacier area. At least, that was the plan.

In early May 1999, the Indian Army launched a massive counter-offensive called Operation Vijay, involving more than 30,000 troops and backed by the Indian Air Force, to evict the infiltrators. What followed for more than two-and-a-half months was a bloody battle of attrition. Inch by inch, and in some places after hand-to-hand combat, the Indian troops

reclaimed most of the lost territory at a great loss of human life. Official figures indicate that 527 Indian soldiers lost their lives and another 1,363 were maimed.

While India and the world watched the big guns booming in the desolate heights of Kargil, Drass and Batalik sectors, the rest of the LOC and the international border also turned red-hot, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

During this period, Maj. Singh was commanding a post in the Chicken's Neck area in J&K in the Akhnoor sector. It's a dagger-shaped piece of Pakistani territory that juts into the Indian side. The lay of the land makes it one of the most vulnerable points for incursion.

Barely days before the Kargil hostilities broke out, Singh rejoined his regiment, 7 Dogra, after recouping from a left knee surgery for a meniscus tear. It was an old injury that flared up on the last day of the mandatory commando course that young officers have to undergo at the Belgaum Commando Training School. During this period, Singh consulted an army doctor for the nagging knee problem. Though he was bearing the injury, the doctor declared him fit for the commando training after some rudimentary tests that involved doing squats. At that time, little did Singh know that their paths would cross again when he would be fighting for his life in a remote field hospital a few months down the line.

Singh, brought up in the finest traditions of Sikhism of martial valour and honour by his grandparents in the cantonment town of Roorkee in Uttarakhand, is a firm believer in destiny. "Come to think of it, it's one in a million chance that a doctor who checked my knee in Belgaum would declare me dead in one of the remotest corners of the country. How else can one justify such a coincidence other than destiny," says Singh with a wry smile.

Singh was assigned to command one of the forward-most posts in the Chicken's Neck area. The post was located on an island in the middle of the Munawar Tawi river, barely 80 metres from the Pakistani post. This part of the border in J&K is one of the few areas where tanks can operate. Naturally, both sides had primed their heavy-duty armoured columns in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation. The question was, who would blink first. In the scorching July heat, the sand and rocks in the riverbed breathed fire.

The post that Singh was manning with one Junior Commissioned Officer and 28 soldiers of other ranks consisting of a ring of bunkers enjoyed one crucial advantage. A massive boulder in front of it prevented the Pakistanis from taking direct shots, while Singh used its cover to pin down the enemy most of the time.

Even as the Kargil war was raging, the rest of



the LOC and the international border in the state became “very alive.” But the term ‘alive’ is an understatement. Light and heavy machine guns and mortar shells rained hell on either side of the dividing line, day and night. The eerie whistling of mortar shells cutting through the air, the dull thud of armour-piercing machine gun bullets hitting the bunker walls and the muzzle flash and incandescent flares at night reminded the men on the front of the mortal danger every waking and sleeping moment.

By early July, the Indian Army had gained an upper hand in the Kargil war and by the second week, the final mopping up of the enemy had started. But where Singh was commanding his troops, intense firing continued unabated. Suddenly, on July 13, the Pakistani guns went silent. “Intuitively, I felt something was not right. I got the feeling that the enemy might be planning something, but I couldn’t put my finger on it. We increased our observation, but didn’t see signs of any unusual activity inside the enemy post,” says Singh.

The morning of July 15, 1999 was unusually hot and humid. As was his routine, he was supervising his men and gun positions at his post. At around 6 am, the Pakistani guns opened up once again. Moving from one bunker to another, Singh heard the familiar whistle of a mortar shell, but realised that it was way off the target. The first bomb fell well beyond the post.

Just as he reached the middle of the open area between the bunkers, a mortar bomb started making a vertical descent from high above his head. When these bombs enter the final vertical dive phase of the trajectory, the stabilising fins don’t make the familiar whistling sound.

The deadly shell landed with a dull thud into the soft ground barely five feet from the young captain. Instinctively, Singh dived into the ground and then everything went black. The shell exploded into thousands of fragments of razor-sharp metal. His right leg that was closest to the shell bore the brunt. The rest of the right side of his body was also badly mutilated. “The last thing I remember is me diving into the ground. It was pure instinct, nothing else. After that, I don’t remember a thing,” says Singh.

Despite losing their leader, the men at the post launched a rescue operation under fire. Four soldiers put Singh on a stretcher to rush him to the nearest field hospital, while the rest returned the Pakistani fire with a vengeance. For the four men, it was a race against time. Singh lay inert on the stretcher with blood spouting “like a fountain” from the multiple holes on his battered body. His right leg was a mangle of bones and flesh. The men finally reached the field hospital that was manned by one doctor and three other medical staff after an arduous trek of 2 1/2 hours.

It was the same doctor, who had examined

his knee during the commando training course in Belgaum. Seeing his condition, the doctor declared Singh dead, much to the despair of the men who had taken him to the field hospital. But then “destiny had other plans”. As luck would have it, on the same day a senior doctor of the rank of colonel, an anaesthesiologist, was visiting the field hospital. He spotted signs of life in the battered soldier and revived him. “Had he not been there, I wouldn’t have been alive today. I tried a few times to locate him but have not been successful. Ironically, the doctor who declared me dead, I met a few times during the course of my treatment in different hospitals,” says Singh.

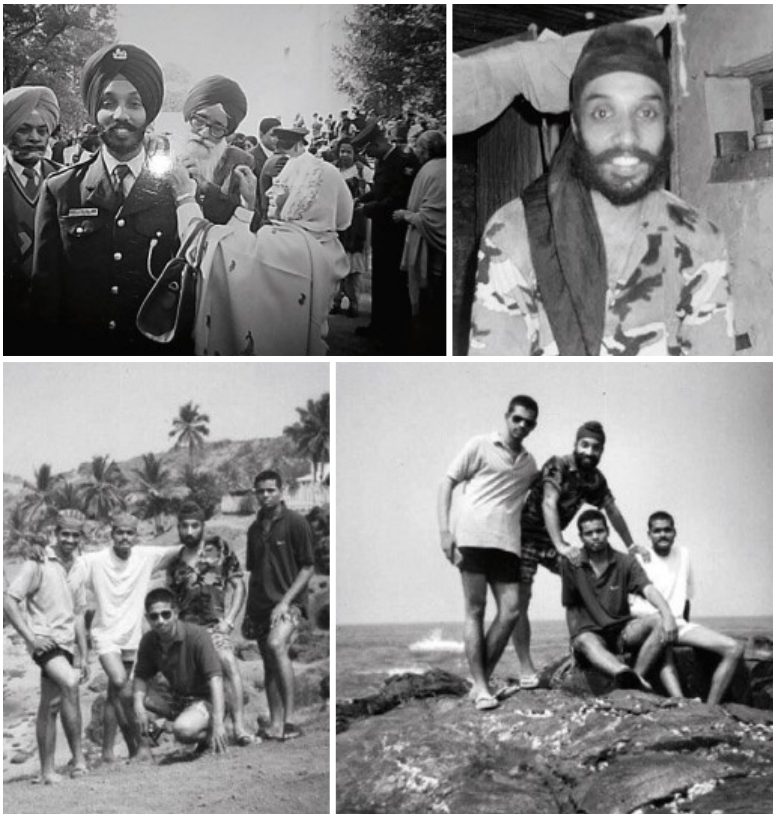
Such was the extent of his injuries that Singh was classified as “dangerously ill” in the army’s medical parlance. It means that the patient cannot be moved unless stabilised. But that presented another complication. By the third day in the field hospital, traces of gangrene had set in in the damaged foot. Still in critical condition, Singh was evacuated to the army hospital in Udhampur.

After a few days, he emerged from the darkness of unconsciousness. And, once the doctors removed the bandages, he realised the extent of damage. “I saw my leg and realised that it was in a very bad shape. Below the knee, there was nothing left...it was just some bones and blown away and burnt flesh,” says Singh. Not that he needed any confirmation, but the grim look on the faces of the doctors said it all. “Son, we need to amputate the leg. Nothing can be done about it,” said one of the senior doctors.

It might be hard to believe, and even seem surreal; Singh says he felt a wave of calmness washing over him. “Please go ahead...there is nothing left in it,” Singh told the doctor. “I don’t want to sound macho or brave, but the only thought that was swimming in my head was...‘it’s going to be a new challenge to live without one functioning leg’...I know it sounds strange, but that’s exactly how it was,” says Singh.

But amputation was only part of the problem. Singh had taken hundreds of shrapnel pieces in his body. They were embedded in his ribs, chest, thighs stomach, intestines and head. Even now he has around 50 metal pieces lodged in various parts of the body. After a month of convalescing in the hospital in Udhampur other complications surfaced due to infection in the stomach. He was shifted to the army’s Research & Referral Hospital in Delhi. In August 1999, he underwent a second surgery of the stomach to remove the infected part of the large intestine. After 40 days, when he was released for the next part of the rehabilitation programme that was to





be done at the Command Hospital in Pune, Singh was reduced to a gaunt figure weighing just 28 kg despite all the high-protein injections and diet. In early 2000, he arrived in Pune to begin the lengthy process of rehabilitation and fitting of the prosthetic leg. When he finally walked out of the hospital in August, he was classified as 140 percent disabled according to the Medical Blue Book.

The 2009 Airtel Delhi Half Marathon was still a little over a month away. Plagued by a myriad health problems due to the permanent damage to some of the internal organs and partial loss of hearing in the right ear arising from Blast Acoustic Trauma, Singh used to suffer from bouts of self-doubt and depression.

One fine day, in a state of melancholy, he stumbled upon a video of Terry Fox on YouTube—the cancer survivor had done the trans-America run to raise money for his charity. That run sparked a brainwave in him. Singh too wanted to run to chase away his own demons.

For the next one month he got down to it

like a man possessed. Determination is one thing, but practicality is quite another challenge. With the prosthetic limb it was not possible to run like a normal person nor was walking possible in a race. So, Singh adopted Fox's technique of hop-running—a weird gait that's somewhere between hopping and running. Thus began his second battle in life.

During the initial days of his running, Singh took plenty of knocks on the road. Falling down was par for the course. Even though after every run, the stump would become sore and tender, the sheer joy of being able to do something that he hadn't even imagined possible had an exhilarating effect on him. Slowly but surely he built enough stamina and confidence to enter the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon. He completed the distance of a little over 26 km in 3 hours 49 minutes. And, he felt hungry for the first time since his injury. "I was very tired...but I got a tremendous high. The first thing that I ate after the race was an apple. I was so hungry that I even chewed up the core of the apple," says Singh.

With that began his obsession with distance running, but at great physical hardship. After

every run, the friction between the stump and the cup of the prosthetic would peel off the skin, leaving him bloodied. He took part in three more half-marathons like this, improving his timing on every outing.

In 2007, Singh took premature retirement from the army, but he kept in touch with his former colleagues. In the meantime, some senior officers in the army came to know about the one-legged runner. It was a chance meeting with Lieutenant General Mukesh Sabarwal at the Army Golf Course at a social do in 2011 that gave a further fillip to his running career. Impressed by his passion for running, the senior army officer got down to helping him get a running blade—the kind which was made famous by the now infamous South African double amputee runner, Oscar Pistorius.

Made by a Finnish company, the Ossur Flex-Foot, constructed from high-quality lightweight steel and carbon fibre, mimics the natural movement of the human limb. Armed with this blade, Singh ran farther and faster. It saw him taking part in the Sangla High Altitude Marathon in 2011. The same year two Limca Book Records also came his way.

In 2013, his story made its way to the US. Kevin Carroll, one of the founders of Hanger Clinic in Oklahoma, invited him to develop a special blade customised for distance running. Carroll and his clinic became famous worldwide a few years back for developing a prosthetic tail for Winter the dolphin, which features in the movie called *The Dolphin's Tail*. The new blade has a sock made from high-quality silicone that sits inside the cup of the prosthetic limb to prevent abrasion of the skin and it weighs just 3.5 kg. In the six years since Singh ran the first half-marathon, he has taken part in more than 20 races, till now, as if to prove that he has won the second battle of his life.

But now he is engaged in another fight. And that's against disability. He is the driving force behind a peer support group called The Challenging Ones. "I am involved with The Challenging Ones to help others who suffer from disability to return to normal life. It's all about changing the perception of the society against disability," says Singh.

It's often said that the limits to which the human body can be pushed can surprise us humans. But what's the point of reference that can help determine to what extent those limits can be stretched? The answer to this conundrum is provided by men like Major D.P. Singh. ■



"I WAS VERY TIRED... BUT I GOT A TREMENDOUS HIGH. THE FIRST THING THAT I ATE AFTER THE RACE WAS AN APPLE. I WAS SO HUNGRY THAT I EVEN CHEWED UP THE CORE OF THE APPLE," SAYS SINGH.

AD

AJAY DEVGN is in a happy place right now. His film *Drishyam* is a hit. His co-production *Parched* was recently premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. And he is currently working on his most expensive film till date as a producer, *Shivaay*, which he is also directing and acting in. It's enough to get him talking although, as he says in this exclusive interview, he does "not like to talk too much."

by **ANNA M.M. VETTICAD**



photographs by **ASHISH CHAWLA**

THIS PAGE

Shirt ₹1,800 and pocket square ₹700 by 16Stitches; blazer ₹97,000 and belt ₹18,000 by Corneliani; trousers by TM Lewin ₹11,775

PREVIOUS PAGE

Suit ₹1,26,000, tie ₹11,000 and pocket square ₹6,000 by Corneliani; shirt by TM Lewin ₹4,699





Congratulations on the success of *Drishyam*. Before the release you called it a small film. Why?

Thank you. I called it small only in terms of the budgetary requirements. A family drama with strong content but no action and songs is a small film budgetwise, not contentwise.

Is this shoot with *MAXIM* a good approximation of your personal style?

I love the way they've dressed me up for this shoot. Though I do not wear such clothes very often, when you see the shoot you will ask why I do not. It is subtle, classy, and it's worked.

What is your personal style?

If I attend a function where it's not compulsory to wear a tie, I would not. (*Laughs*) I would wear something like jeans and a jacket. I want to be comfortable.

Doesn't looking casual too require a great deal of effort?

It does. The bottomline is that if you stay fit, anything sober works on your body because it falls right. Even the most expensive clothes won't suit you if you don't have a toned, fit body.

Has your attitude to style and styling changed over the years?

I have everything in my cupboard, but you know what I wear when I go to shoot in the morning? Shorts or jeans, a T-shirt and my *chappals*. Because I've to go there, dress up for the film, pack up and come back home. (*Laughs*) So I don't really care about what I wear.

Have you not become more style-aware after you married Kajol?

She's never bothered. (*Laughs*)

Is it possible to be a film star these days without being at least slightly style-conscious?

You are conscious only when you are in front

of the camera. That's why you have designers and others to dress you up according to the character. Apart from that I don't think it makes any difference. Look at the biggest superstar in the country, Rajinikanth. He moves around without hair and he doesn't care. But when he comes onscreen he's completely different.

Your daughter is 12, an age at which parents have to be vigilant about the use of gadgets and the Internet because of all the information out there. How are you handling that?

We're trying our best. It's very tough because they have access in school and at home, and there's wi-fi everywhere. We have blocked a lot of things, we talk to her and—touch wood—she does understand what she should and should not be seeing, but the fact is that at 12, today's kids know as much as we knew when we were 25. Talking really, really helps. And talking not at the age of 12, you need to start at the age of five or six.

How comfortable are you with the social media?

Not great. I try to do a little bit of whatever I can, but I'm not very active.

Is that a reflection of the kind of person you are?

Yeah, yeah, I do not like to share too much, I do not like to talk too much, I don't have anything to say when I have nothing to say. (*Laughs*)

Many older generation stars feel that Twitter and FB are killing stardom as we know it because they destroy the mystique once considered essential to stardom. I also somewhere believe in that. That is another reason why I maintain a distance.

In that case, why are you making the effort at all?

Some things are required for film promotions. It's also a means through which fan clubs can stay connected to you. Earlier there were letters and fan mail, but things have changed. So if you are on social media, it makes them happy. But I'm not there to say, "Okay I just had a shower..."

Are you tech-savvy?

Where technology about films is concerned, I can beat anybody hands down. But where

computers or other gadgets are concerned, I've never bothered.

Why not?

I have enough on my hands. So if there's something that I don't know how to do on my iPad, I ask my daughter, "Can you do this for me?" (*Laughs*)

Do you learn more from your failures or successes?

Both. And from other people's failures and successes. Even in films for which I've got national awards, I don't want to watch myself. I feel like, what shit work I've done, *yaar*, I could have done it better.

You seem to have great clarity about your strengths and weaknesses. Where does that come from?

From being honest to yourself? And from knowing why people are around you, what they want and why. If you are sensible enough to know what is not working but they're saying it's working, that means they're lying to you. If you see me on film sets, I would be sitting alone, I wouldn't have 20 people surrounding me and chatting because I don't have time for that. From the beginning I've been very grounded that way. I give my father [action director Veeru Devgan] the credit for this, because when I've visited him I used to go on the sets and I've seen all this happening to other stars. I understood from my father, so I've never let that happen to me.

So one of the rules of stardom for you is: no sycophants, no *chamchas*?

Yeah.

Give me more rules of stardom from your book.

(*Long pause*) I don't know. I don't even think of myself as a star. I mean, I just get up and go for work, as insecure as anybody else.

Maybe that's one of the rules?

Yeah, maybe. Even today, after 25 years of being in films, before giving a shot I don't know if I'll be able to pull it off. That insecurity helps you to grow.

And?

And always be aware of what is happening in the world around you. That too will help you to grow, and to know when you're being fooled and when you're not. ■

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DEADLIEST CATCH

CONOR MCGREGOR,
UFC'S QUICK-FISTED,
FAST-TALKING
FEATHERWEIGHT,
TAKES A STYLE
DETOUR ALONG THE
CALIFORNIA COAST.





THIS PAGE
Trench by Dsquared²;
sweater by Bally; pants
by Ermenegildo Zegna
Couture; beanie by
Binge Knitting; shoes by
Marc by Marc Jacobs



THIS PAGE

Trench, sweater and jeans by Prada; watch by Tudor; bracelets and ring (worn throughout) by Scosha

OPPOSITE PAGE

Jacket and sweater by Nautica; jeans by AG Jeans; watch by Tudor



CONOR MCGREGOR knows how to make a statement.

Just two years and six fights into his UFC career, the Irish featherweight has gone from relative unknown to the most electrifying character in the sport. Yes, the 26-year-old is a brutal, efficient fighter with an eclectic array of techniques and a knack for knockouts (15 of his 17 wins come from TKOs, including four of his six UFC wins). But his meteoric rise owes as much to his mouth as to his fists, knees, and feet: McGregor is a sneering, trash-spewing, over-the-top showman more akin to a top-card professional wrestler than a cage fighter. Often outfitted in three-piece suits, he riles up fans with crazed monologues, taunts fighters mid-match with a wagged finger, and boldly predicts how long it'll take him to incapacitate opponents (usually two minutes, but even if foes don't tap, that's about the time McGregor "sees their eyes dim," as he puts it).

"What can I say? I'm a talker," he says.

His unique brand of bombast has earned him the title of the Emerald Isle's most googled athlete, not to mention a freshly inked Reebok contract, a worldwide legion of crazed, flag-waving supporters, and, in December, a title shot against featherweight champion José Aldo at UFC 194.

"My success isn't a result of arrogance—it's a result of belief," says the 145-pounder, whose lean frame and wild-eyed stare make him look like some long-ago warrior who drinks ale from the skulls of conquered kings. "My belief is what brought me here; it's my most powerful ally. I knew I'd be in the UFC since I started my career."

Born in Crumlin, a scrappy suburb of Dublin, McGregor, who, despite his antics, is stoic and poised away from the cage, says he's always had an "insatiable curiosity for combat." As a boy, he bounced from gym to gym, learning everything from capoeira to muay Thai. After a stint as a plumber, McGregor pursued MMA full-time and eventually made his way to the European circuit, where he earned the nickname "Notorious" as well as the lightweight and featherweight belts. He joined UFC in 2013 and was quickly recognised for his skills in both combat and scene-stealing.

"I have the greatest job in the world," McGregor says. "I get paid loads of cash for beating the crap out of people. And I'm very good at it."

He'll need that mindset when he fights José Aldo. The Brazilian has defended the belt seven times and hasn't lost a match since 2005.

"He has nothing that worries me," says McGregor, adding, with a smirk, "He'll be done two minutes into the second round."

—Matt Berical



THIS PAGE

Trench, sweater, and
pants by Burberry
Prorsum; beanie by
Binge Knitting; watch by
Tudor; boots by Red
Wing Heritage

OPPOSITE PAGE

Jacket and jeans by
Marc by Marc Jacobs;
sweater by Gant;
beanie by Asos; watch
by Tudor







THIS PAGE

Jacket by 7 For All
Mankind; jacket by
Giorgio Armani; sweater
by Bally; jeans by AG
Jeans; beanie by Asos;
watch by Tudor

OPPOSITE PAGE

Sweater and pants by
Bottega Veneta; T-shirt
by Canali; beanie by
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THE LEGENDS CUP™

The Mumbai leg of the Sports Illustrated Legends Cup saw 45 of the biggest corporates fighting it out for glory. The companies included Accenture, JP Morgan, HDFC Bank, Willis, IDFC, Kotak Mahindra, JM Financials, Morgan Stanley, Mitstubishi, JSW and Serco. The two-day event was held over October 10 and 11, at the Kamla Mills compound in Lower Parel.

HDFC Bank was an outright winner, picking up trophies in both the women's and the men's categories—winner in the first and runner-up in the latter. While JP Morgan came second in the women's category, the men's section trophy was lifted by Willis.

The next leg, to be held in New Delhi, is scheduled for November 7 and 8, post which all city finalists and runners' up will be flown to the Capital for the national finals, which is scheduled for December 5 and 6.



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FAST AND THE FURIOUS

SFL 43 saw a nine-second knockout in the title bout while the Delhi vs. Mumbai city face-off provided the fireworks



Sports Illustrated
INDIA

The pace at which things happened inside the 'O' zone, the Super Fight League fight cage, would have left Usain Bolt a tad insecure. Amitesh Chaubey knocked out Jason Ramesh Solomon in flat nine seconds to win the Super Fight League (SFL) welterweight title belt on Sept. 26, during SFL 43 Delhi at the Hyatt Regency in Manesar, Gurgaon.

The crowd had barely settled into their seats when Solomon, seemingly in a rush, ran into a punch from Chaubey, which knocked the local favourite out cold. Chaubey, a late replacement for the original contender, Mukesh Gora, was ecstatic over the knockout, which is easily the fastest in the SFL and possibly a world record (the organisers are awaiting confirmation).

While the title bout ended in a jiffy, the SFL 43 night was not just about the lightweight crown. The real battle was for city bragging rights, with the Indian MMA promoter trying out its new league format. The bouts featured a face-off between two city teams—Delhi Gladiators and Mumbai Maniacs—with six fighters of different weight divisions representing each city in a clash inside the cage.

The team fight format is part of SFL's metamorphosis into the "world's first fighting league (team-based MMA league) coming up in June 2016, both in India and the US," said a senior official of the MMA promotion. Initially, there will be SFL India and SFL America, with plans in the pipeline for global expansion.

At SFL 43, a new scoring system for team-based MMA fights was tried out. It is a first for the sport and could become a game-changer in the world of MMA.

Then again, the SFL has always been at the forefront with pioneering efforts in the field. The SFL, owned by the British-born Indian businessman and fight sport enthusiast, Bill Dosanjh, with British boxing star Amir Khan as a co-owner, was one of the first MMA promotions to feature women fighters. SFL's first female bout was held in March 2012.

SFL 43 also featured a women fight-card in the Delhi vs. Mumbai clash, and the ladies thrilled the crowd, which included Bollywood and television celebs such as actors Rohit Roy, Aashish Chaudhary, Arjan Bajwa and Karan Kundra, twins Raghu and Rajeev Ram of MTV Roadies fame, and VJ Anusha Dandekar.

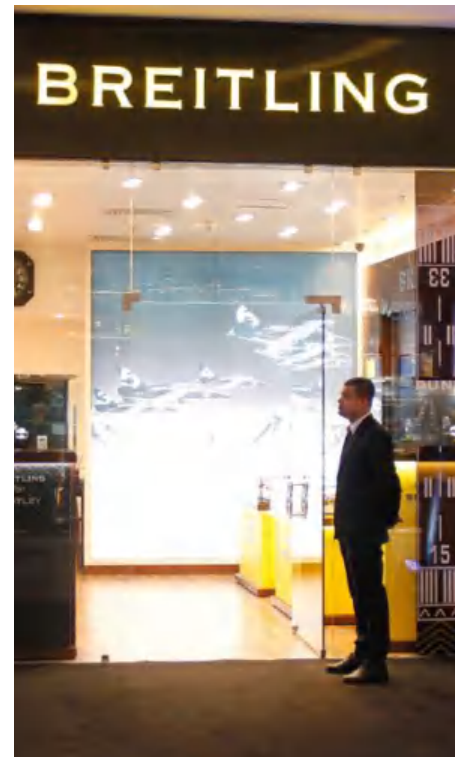
The fights were sanctioned by the All India Mixed Martial Arts Association (AIMMAA), the governing body of MMA in India. Raj Kundra, the chairman of AIMMAA, and his team of officials were at hand to ensure the bouts were fought in the right spirit.

BREITLING'S NEW BOUTIQUE IN KOLKATA

The luxury watch brand marks the launch of its flagship boutique with an exclusive showcase event.

Breitling hosted an exclusive showing of latest timepieces from its collection at its new boutique, located in Quest Mall at 33 Syed Amir Ali Avenue, Kolkata. The Breitling boutique enables customers to benefit from a highly professional approach facilitating access to a broad range of Breitling and Breitling for Bentley models— notably including chronographs equipped with Manufacture Breitling movements, along with special boutique editions. The latest chronographs from the 2015 collection were on display, and guests were given a tour of the boutique and were introduced to the new models launched.

A specialist in technical watches, Breitling has played a crucial role in the development of the wrist chronograph and is a leader in this arena.



ITC GRAND CENTRAL—A GASTRONOMICAL DELIGHT!

ITC Grand Central, Mumbai is a luxury hotel located in the heart of Mumbai, combining classic heritage inspiration with contemporary elegance. The hotel offers timeless culinary legends for global travellers.



Check out our favourites below:

K&K

K&K is an exclusive Indian restaurant showcasing scrumptious heritage cuisine fine-tuned through years of research by the celebrated chefs of ITC Hotels. Cuisines of royalty and the Nawabs, rich in folklore as also in taste, are served at the restaurant. Melt-in-the-mouth kebabs are sprung from the restaurant's armoury of clay ovens, iron tandoors, charcoal and *pathar* (stone) grills along with rustic *angethis* and *tawas*.

HORNBY'S PAVILION

Named after the erstwhile Governor of Mumbai, William Hornby, Hornby's Pavilion is an exclusive all-day dining restaurant. Set in elegant surroundings, Hornby's Pavilion

is a pleasant site for a rendezvous with warm sunlight during the day and a cosy romantic setting during evenings. A lavish buffet spread for breakfast, lunch and dinner along with the choicest breads, fresh juices, wood-fired pizzas and much more is offered here during meal hours.

SHANGHAI CLUB

A fine dining Chinese restaurant, the Shanghai Club at ITC Grand Central presents erstwhile Shanghai's potpourri of authentic Chinese regional cuisines in a contemporary ambience. Delicately balanced flavours of yin and yang, laid out by the expat Master Chef Yuanzhong Jia, from Szechuan, are served in an elegant and warm atmosphere.





ARK—THE NEW HOTSPOT IN MUMBAI

ARK at the Courtyard by Marriott is the one-stop tipples destination that will cater to your every need.

ARK, our new favourite haunt in North Mumbai, aims at providing you with an excellent dining (and drinking!) experience along with world-class hospitality—it's the only bar to serve craft beer and the only bar to serve alcohol until 3 am in North Mumbai. ARK is among the few lounge bars in the city that house a special rack of collector's edition wines. You've got to try their signature molecular cocktails and the Philadelphia stuffed mushrooms. Nestled on the ground floor of the Courtyard by Marriott, this 70-seater high energy bar is an architectural delight. The design is a fusion of colonial styles and contemporary



décor with the focal point being a dramatic media wall consisting of nine LCD screens. The colour palette comprises deep browns and flaming gold with a brick wall in the bar section giving the bar a rustic look. ARK hosts weekly nights dedicated to different genres of music and live events and the in-house music stylists shuffle between EDM, trance, pop and a range of other genres. Timings: 18:00 to 03:00.

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SAPAN VERMA

One-seventh of comedy troupe East India Comedy, Verma's wisecrack videos have us guffawing on YouTube through lunch hour. Here, his reactions on facing certain death and never becoming a *Maxim* model.

How do you want it all to end?

This is the most depressing start to an interview...ever. It should be quick and dirty. Not one of those slow, painful deaths where you're in the hospital for six months—because hospitals are gloomy (and expensive).

Describe your last day on Earth.

I'll probably be chasing clients for payments or justifying my Tweet to some troll who wrote "u liberal returd ur anti national".

What's your last meal?

Dal makhni, butter chicken and cheesy garlic naan. Plus *rasmalai* and *jalebi* for dessert.

The one film you'd like to watch before the end?

The *Star Wars* series. So that at least in the afterlife people don't go, "OMG! You haven't seen *Star Wars*??!?! *Haww!* Get out now! Shame, shame, puppy shame!"

Are you going to heaven or hell?

I make people laugh for a living so I should be in heaven. But I'll also freelance with hell every once in a while for all the mean jokes that I've made.

Who will you spy on from there?

What?! People become *Bigg Boss* after dying?

Who are you looking forward to meeting?

Screw people, I'm hoping for a bigger house than the current Bombay one that I live in. And an unlimited supply of movies and TV shows.

Do you have any regrets?

Yes. That I never featured on *Maxim's* cover as a sexy model.

What's your deathbed confession?

That I always wanted to feature on *Maxim's* cover as a sexy model.

What have you spent the most money on?

Travelling the world, eating desserts and exceeding 3G data plans.

What's been your proudest accomplishment?

My Twitter account got verified before KRK's. (As you can see, I have low standards.)

Who will you miss the most on Earth?

Pets. I hope there are lots of cats and dogs in the afterlife.

Who would you want to be reincarnated as and why?

A cat. Basically be mean, throw your weight around and still manage to get a lot of likes on Instagram.

Which comedic legends do you hang out with in the afterlife?

I think I've had enough comedy for one life. Can I hang out with some *Maxim* models in the afterlife? Where do I sign up?

The craziest thing you did here on Earth?

Watched porn, ate nonvegetarian food and Maggi. And still managed to stay alive. Or maybe that's why I died.

What do you know now that you didn't know at 18?

That I'm never making it to the *Maxim* cover. *Goes back in time and cancels gym memberships, dietician appointments and implants surgery.*

A joke you regret cracking...

Why did the optimistic chicken cross the road? To get to the bright side. (Now you know why I regret cracking it.)



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